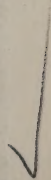


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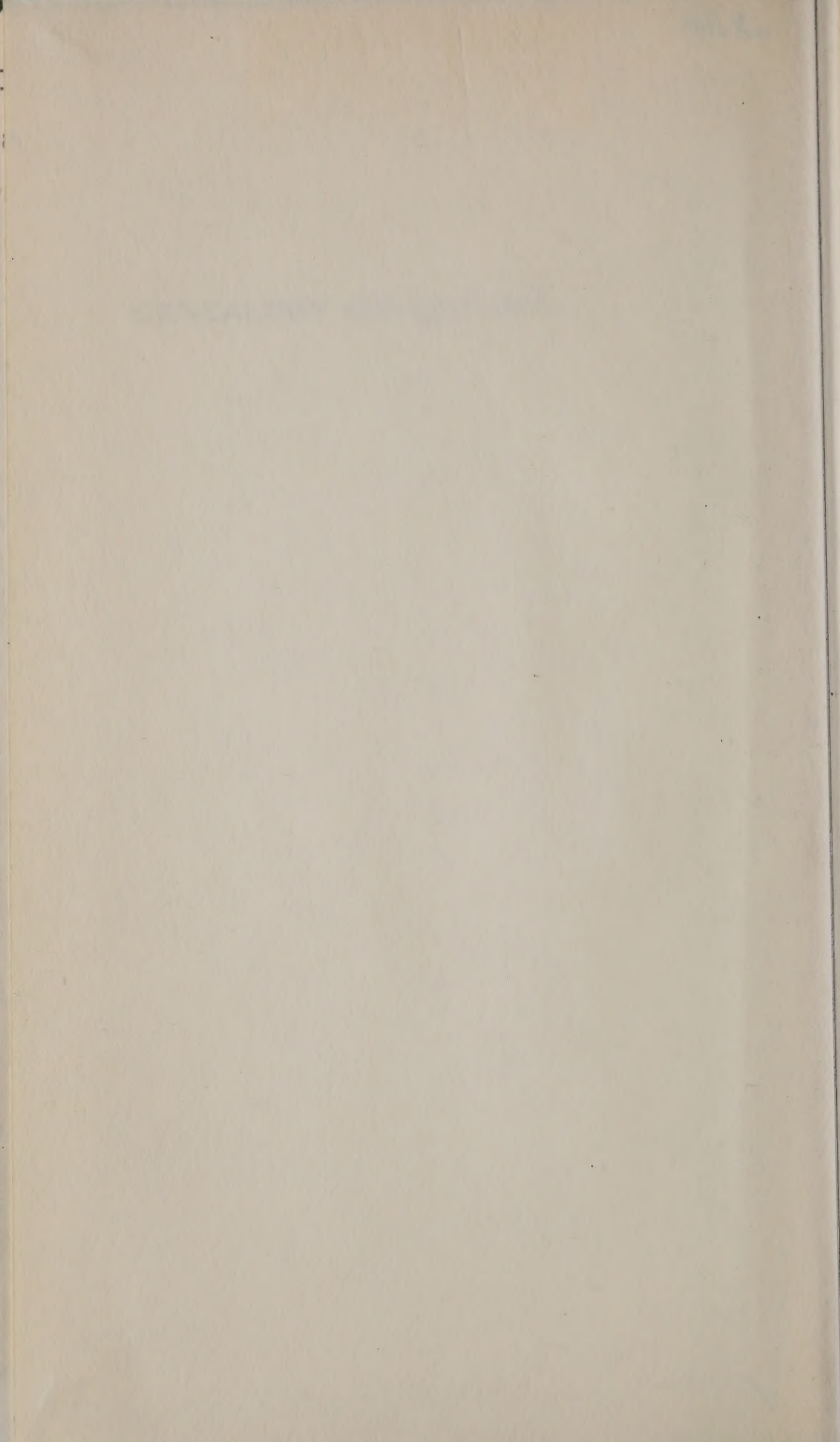
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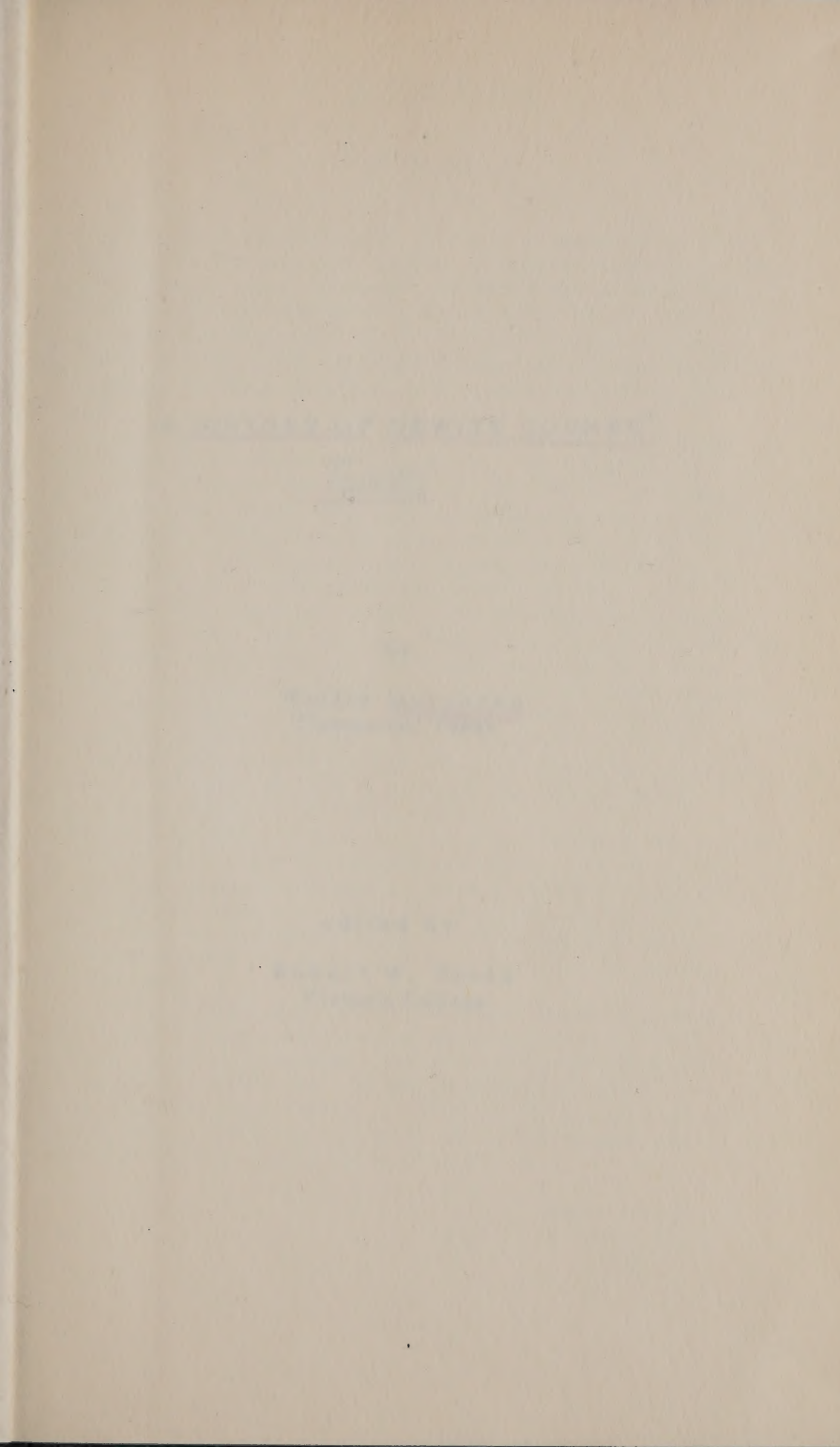


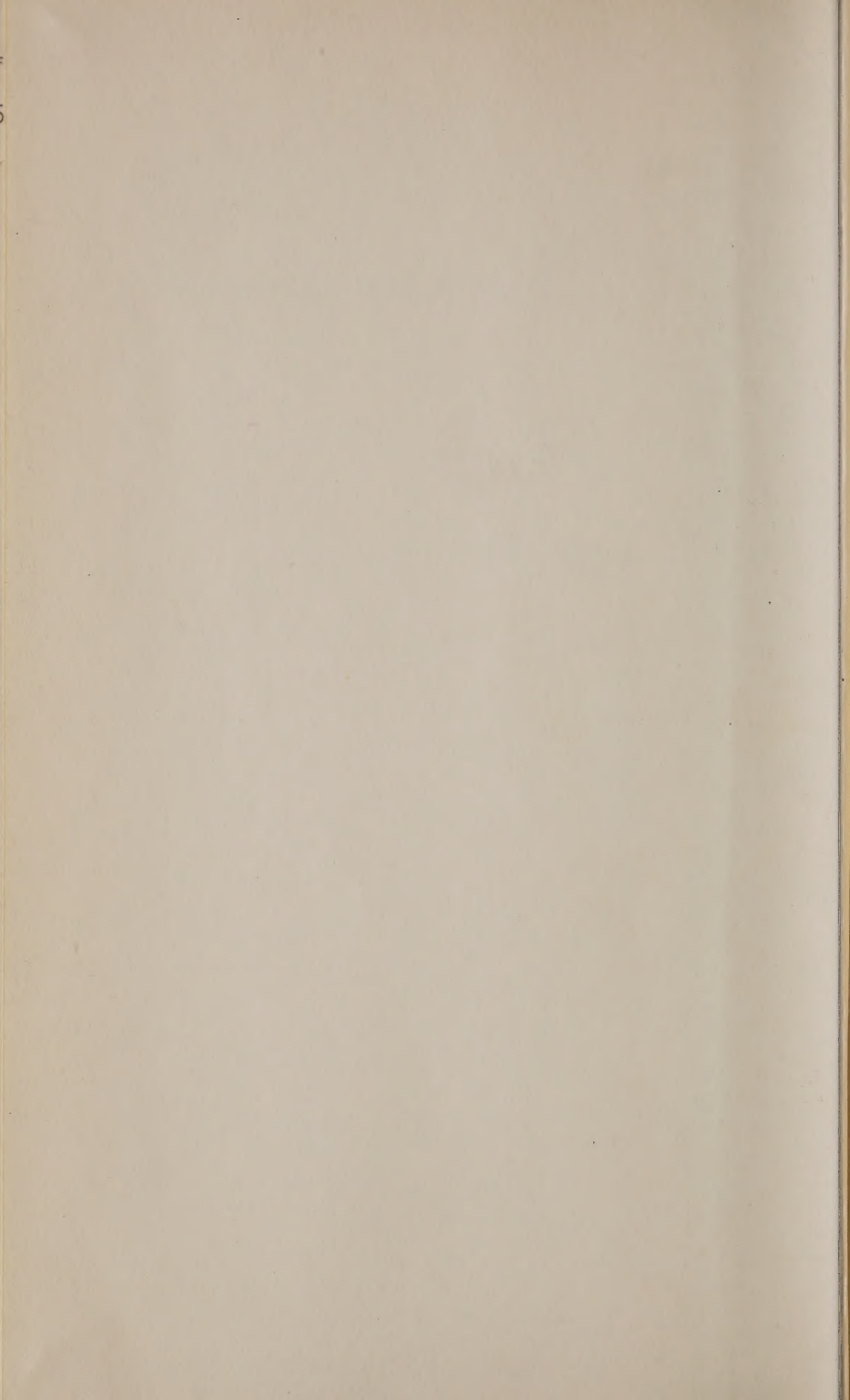
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A HISTORY OF DEWITT COUNTY

Texas

by

Nellie Murphree
Thomaston, Texas

edited by

Robert W. Shook
Victoria College

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A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF PORT WYATT

By
J. W. ALLEN

Published by
J. W. ALLEN
Port Wyatt, Ohio

Foreword

Judge David Murphree bought, at public auction at Victoria in 1845, lot No. 1 of the Amadore League. In 1848 he built a home near the bank of Prices Creek. This was the first home in the farming and stock-raising area that came to be called the Prices Creek and later Thomaston Community. Since 1848 Murphrees have lived on that land in the bend of the Guadalupe River. Miss Nellie Murphree, granddaughter of David Murphree, has resided on this tract since her birth.

It was during the centennial year of 1936 that Miss Murphree became interested in DeWitt County history. As a teacher and writer of local history Miss Murphree has devoted her energies to inspiring students, researching family genealogies, and preserving materials which would otherwise have been lost. Her works include A History of the Cuero Presbyterian Church, contributions to the Handbook of Texas, and numerous newspaper articles.

The materials organized in this work were taken from standard and primary sources from the University of Texas and other libraries. DeWitt County records were also thoroughly researched by Miss Murphree. Much of the data assembled over the last three decades had its inception in conversation, personal reminiscences, both written and oral, family records, and old settlers' tales. The editor, in addition to organizing and editing the materials, supplied chapter introductions and special sections, eg. Civil War and Reconstruction, Political Statistics, etc.

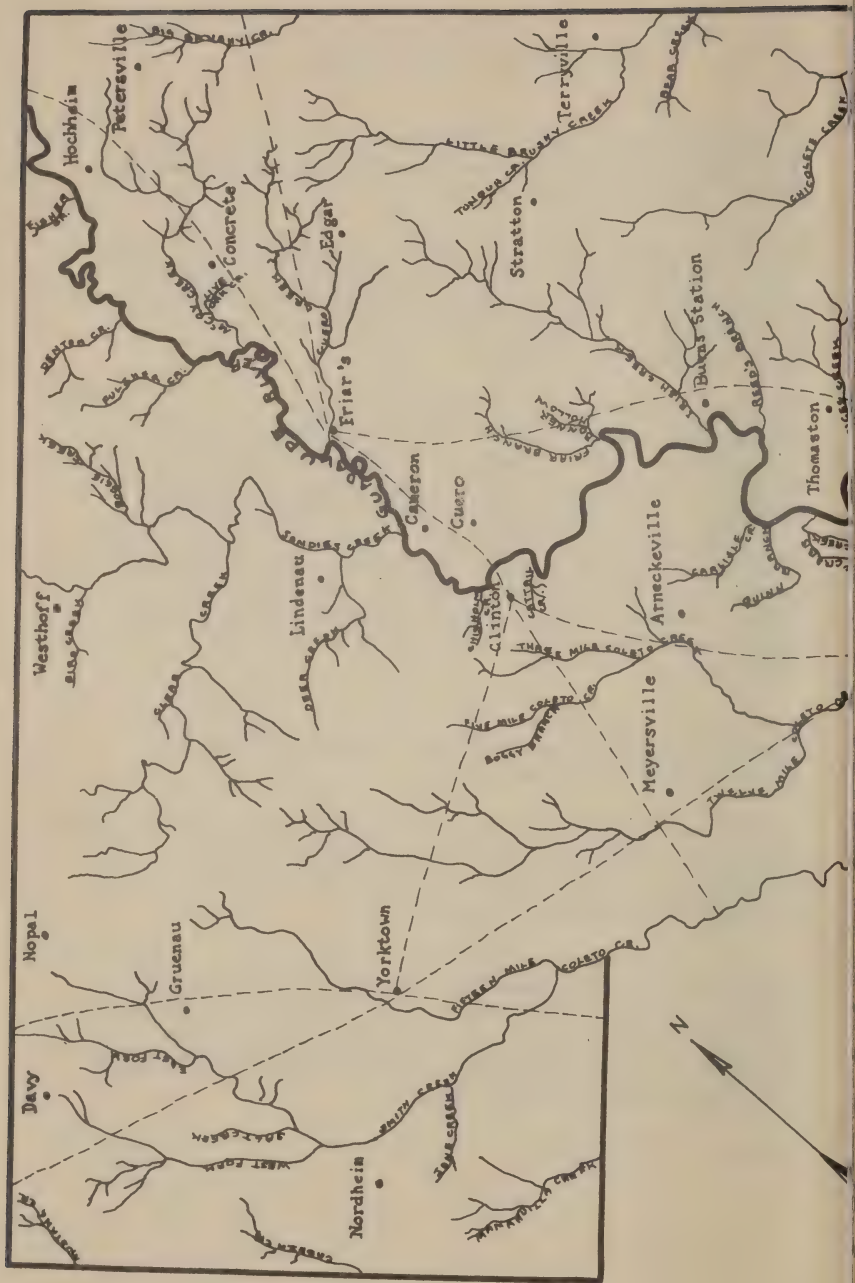
The purpose of this work was not to compile a definitive, formally documented history from Miss Murphree's essays and notes, but simply to arrange these writings in a form readily accessible to those friends and relatives of Miss Murphree who recognize and appreciate her long and arduous labors dedicated to preserving, in a literary fashion, the deeds which have gone into the making of DeWitt County.

In keeping with the nature of the materials and the purpose of the task a non-scholarly style seemed not only appropriate but mandatory. In place of orthodox documentary format the editor felt it adequate to enumerate, in an acknowledgment section, those persons who are deserving of thanks for their contributions. Errors in dates, family relationships, etc. are very likely the editor's and for these apology is made in advance.

Robert W. Shook
Victoria, Texas
1962

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I DISCOVERY TO INDEPENDENCE

The earliest inhabitants of DeWitt County country were the Karankawas and Tonkawas who roamed the area before their tenure was successfully challenged by European explorers and settlers. The first white man to traverse the region was the ship-wrecked Cabeza de Vaca, who ranged from the coast to the Balcones Escarpment and finally made his way to New Spain where he related his experiences in Texas. Other Spaniards followed de Vaca, to colonize and extend the royal claim.

From the time of this first contact by Europeans, three hundred years would pass before the establishment of the first settlement in the Anglo-American colony organized by Empresario Green C. DeWitt. None of the major settlements of DeWitt's Colony was located in what is now DeWitt County, but the Guadalupe Valley attracted many Anglo-American colonists and German immigrants who later formed the nucleus of the county. It is thus appropriate to commence with the colonial experience out of which DeWitt County ultimately emerged.

The Empresario Grant and Immigration Green C. DeWitt secured a grant from the Mexican government in April, 1825, to settle 400 families in the region between the Guadalupe and Lavaca Rivers; for each 100 families he was to receive certain lands as empresario. His original grant was made after personal influence was exerted by Stephen F. Austin, DeWitt's fellow Missourian, and Baron de Bastrop.

In 1825 DeWitt began receiving colonists who were landed at the mouth of the Lavaca River; this area developed into the Old Station settlement. By 1846 there were forty persons living in this section in addition to the settlements farther northwest in what became DeWitt County proper. A list of those who migrated to Gonzales, Old Station, and the Guadalupe Valley settlements south of Gonzales includes those who simply received titles and others who pioneered the region by building homes and rearing families.

The work by Ethel Zivley Rather, DeWitt's Colony, lists 199 grants taken up by 179 persons under either Green DeWitt's empresario entitlement or directly from the government of Mexico. The dates of arrival for these first settlers vary from March 5, 1825, to December 15, 1831. Titles granted for both DeWitt colonials and the direct grantees range from April 15, 1831, to July 10, 1835.

Of these 179, 39 grantees took up titles in what is now DeWitt County. Only four of these tracts did not include Guadalupe River frontage and all were laid out in regard to water availability whether river or creek. These 39 grantees - named in order of their surveys from south to north - were as follows: John McCrabb, Charles Lockhart, Green DeWitt, John B. Lockhart, Arthur Burns, Squire Burns, Patrick Dowlearn, Hepzibeth Taylor, Joseph Tumlinson,

Byrd B. Lockart, R. H. Chisholm, Jose Antonio Valdez, George W. Lockhart, Peter Teal, J. J. Tumlinson, Andrew Lockhart, William Derduff, Elihu Moss, Samuel Lockhart, George W. Davis, David G. Mills, Tobias Wentworth, Joseph Kent, John Fennel, Thom R. Mills, Valentine Bennet, K. W. Barton, William Cobbey, Churchi Fulshear, Graves Fulshear, John McCoy, Samuel P. Middleton, Joseph D. Clements, Daniel Davis, Simeon Bateman, Samuel McCoy, Benn. Fulshear, James Hughes, Joseph D. Clements. Twenty-one of the grants were for 1/4 sitio, 18 for a full sitio (4,428.4 acres). The number of persons reported as members of the families thus settled varied from 1-38 with four being an approximate average.

Green DeWitt's Colony James Kerr was appointed by Green DeWitt as surveyor-general and agent for the empresario; Kerr later served also as attorney for the colony. The career of Kerr was exemplary and he was respected by the colonials and the empresario. The site of Gonzales, first town of the colony, was selected by James Kerr, Deaf Smith, and several others in June, 1825, and by July, 1826, approximately one-half dozen families had settled in the town. Gonzales was the only settlement of Anglo-Americans west of the Colorado River; the contributions of this community hardly require enumeration. Victoria, De Leon's town, was 60 miles to the southw and Bexar, the seat of government for Texas, lay 78 miles to the west.

The early days of colonial activity were plagued by boundary disputes. Empresario De Leon had settled a number of families on lands included in the DeWitt Grant, but DeWitt's appeal to rectify the intrusion was denied in favor of allowing already established communities to continue. Later in 1830 DeWitt protested De Leon's attempt to evict DeWitt colonials; this appeal was upheld by the Mexican governor, but the land controversy continued for some time and on occasions became quite personal.

With the exception of an episode in July, 1826, when an Indian raid caused Gonzales to be abandoned temporarily, the DeWitt colonials enjoyed relative peace with the surrounding tribes. A treaty with the Karankawas in 1827 was kept by both parties and only occasional raids by Tonkawas for horses and cattle disturbed the colony's progress. Soon after the attack of 1826 Gonzales was repopulated; new settlers arrived, homes were built, and the town was surveyed. The population in 1829 was 75. DeWitt's appeal for extension of his contract was denied in 1831 and the area was organized in 1832 as a municipality; the governing of the colony had been accomplished theretofore at San Felipe de Austin. Ezekiel Williams was appointed first alcalde; Charles Lockhart was appointed second regidor in 1833 and Joseph Clements filled that office in 1835.

Green DeWitt had settled 166 families but had received land as empresario for only 100. It was while seeking redress for this situation that he died in Monclova on May 18, 1835. Much of his unoccupied land reverted to the Mexican government and was later granted to other empresarios.

The Revolutionary Era At the outbreak of the Texas Revolution DeWitt colonists pledged their loyalty to Mexico, but by late 1835 they had taken the side of the revolutionaries through their representation at the Consultation by Joseph Clements who assisted in the establishment of a Provisional Government for the Republic of Texas. No important battle was fought in the territory of DeWitt County, but many of her sons served the cause. At the Gonzales Cannon Affair were land owners from the territory later organized as DeWitt County: Simeon Bateman, Graves Fulcher, Valentine Bennet, Joseph D. Clements, and George W. Davis.

Though no major encounters took place on DeWitt County soil during the struggle for Texas independence, a number of those who made their homes there contributed to the cause: William Derduff, Jesse McCoy, and Thomas R. Miller, residents of the area south of Gonzales, were members of the ill-fated Alamo company; Captain John York was present in December, 1835, at the Battle of Bexar; Judge David Murphree was assigned to the Alamo but escaped the tragic fortune of the garrison's defenders while scouting the whereabouts of Fannin; Creed Taylor had been a member of Milam's forces which captured Bexar.

At San Jacinto, Daniel Boone Friar, John McCrabb, Judge David Murphree, Thomas H. and James M. Bell, and others earned credit for their future county. Major Valentine Bennet, serving as a quartermaster officer, was present at Velasco, Gonzales, Bexar, and San Jacinto. Arthur Burns, founder of the Irish Creek Settlement, supervised the evacuation of that area and had been host to General Sam Houston when the officer stopped over at the Burns home on a frontier tour. Squire Burns, son of Arthur Burns, was a Texas Army scout, 1835-1836. Six of the Bell sons served during the Revolution and Thomas York was killed with Fannin's men at Goliad.

II COUNTY ORGANIZATION TO WORLD WAR I

In the years 1825-1831 settlers migrated into what is now DeWitt County from Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and other southern states. After the 1840's these Anglo-Americans were followed by a large number of Germans who later made up a majority of the total population. Two major areas outside old Gonzales settlement were centers for these earliest residents of the county. One, the "Upper Settlement", centered on Concrete between McCoy and Cuero Creeks. The other, the "Lower Settlement", began at Burns Station on Irish Creek and spread along the Guadalupe and its southern tributaries.

Judicial DeWitt County The political organization of these early settler was accomplished only after colorful and turbulent contests between the most prominent of pioneer citizens over a location for the seat of government. The first attempt at county organization was the designation of the area in February, 1842, as Judicial DeWitt County. This was accomplished by act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas. Commissioners Daniel Boone Friar, Ralph Campbell, Joseph Lawrence, James T. Wood, Ben M. Craig, and James Norman Smith were appointed to see that elections were held and the county organization proceeded. Judicial DeWitt County was to be part of the Fourth Judicial District with court to be held the second Monday in January, April, July, and October. Judicial DeWitt County was dissolved as the result of a Supreme Court decision in 1842 which held such structures to be unconstitutional. No other action was taken to organize the county until after Texas was annexed by the United States.

County Organization and Situation of County Seats On March 24, 1846, from parts of Goliad, Gonzales, and Victoria Counties, the Texas Legislature created DeWitt County, so named in honor of Green DeWitt. Disputes began less than three months later over the issue of a site for the county seat. At least three land owners were interested in securing a location favorable to their interests. Capt. Daniel Boone Friar, whose combination home, store, and post office, had been selected as a temporary site for holding of county court, hired a surveyor to determine whether or not his property fell within the required 5 mile radius from the center of the county; it was discovered to lie seven miles from the county's geographical center.

Richard H. Chisholm, ferry boat owner, donated 640 acres for location consideration. He desired the county seat to be located on the Guadalupe River near his ferry operation and hoped the town would be called Clinton; this plan collapsed. A site was finally chosen by a committee selected by the State Legislature consisting of Daniel Boone Friar, John Troy, William Blair, and James M. Baker. The Committee selected and announced the location on June 23, 1846:

the situation on the east bank of the Guadalupe River nearly opposite the Sandies is the most eligible and we have this day selected said point for a location of said county seat.

This site was located on land of the John J. Tumlinson Survey and was donated by Joseph Tumlinson. The name selected for the county seat was intended to commemorate the life and death of Captain Ewen Cameron, leader of the Mier Expedition and victim of the famous bean drawing:

The court, after due deliberation and believing it to be their duty to give a name to the county seat, and after reflecting upon the great services rendered to this state while it existed as The Republic of Texas by the much beloved and lamented, Ewen Cameron, who was basely and inhumanly murdered by the barbarous and treacherous Mexicans, and the court believing that a more noble patriot and brave spirit never commanded a band of soldiers. They, therefore, wishing to perpetuate his memory to future ages, do hereby agree to call the county seat of DeWitt County by the name of Cameron.

On July 13, 1846, the first county election was held and the following officers were selected by the voters: Probate Judge - J. M. Baker; County Judge - John Troy; County Clerk - James N. Smith; District Clerk - Joseph L. Baker; Sheriff - W. P. Patterson; and Commissioners - V. V. Poinsett, John York, and Crockett C. Cardwell.

The home of D. B. Friar was used as a temporary meeting place for Commissioners Court until a courthouse could be constructed in Cameron, but a good deal of disagreement erupted over the legality of the site. Friar's Place was located at the juncture of the La Grange-La Bahia and Victoria-Gonzales roads.

In January, 1847, County Judge Troy was willing to hold court at the temporary site; however, several of the commissioners objected, agreeing with a prior decision by District Judge W. E. Jones that the Friar Place was an illegal location because it was not within the bounds of the county seat. The debate was heated. Judge Troy called out angrily, "Adjourn court to meet in hell, for I'll send Sheriff Patterson there by morning!" Clerk James Norman Smith replied, "Appoint another clerk, Judge, for I cannot meet with you in that place." After a time things quieted down a bit and court was adjourned to meet in special session in the county clerk's office in Cameron. At that meeting plans were formulated for building a courthouse in Cameron.

Until the courthouse was completed, court sessions were held in the clerk's office or in the nearby oak grove within the county seat

of Cameron. Officers and interested parties rode to the county seat and camped out, each bringing a stake, ropes, a wallet of bread and meat, and a blanket. They often enjoyed the hospitality of county clerk "Uncle Jimmy" Smith, who lived nearby.

In March, 1847, the court appointed William A. Blair as agent to receive proposals for: "Building a courthouse at Cameron and to make a contract with the lowest competent bidder to build the same of the following size, a log house 16X16 feet, the logs of which to be hewed down after the house is raised to be 8 feet high in the body, to be covered with 3 foot clap-boards, cabin fashion, with one door and shutter, and to be done in substantial manner. The house to be raised on blocks one foot high."

This building, DeWitt County's first courthouse, was completed according to specifications. In April, 1847, Clerk Smith recorded, "Court met in the courthouse in Cameron."

In April, 1847, James N. Smith reported to the court the sale of a number of town lots in Cameron, the survey and sale of which had been authorized in November, 1846. Those persons purchasing the lots were James N. Smith, Isaac Bright, John White and Arthur Burns.

In July, 1847, the court appointed James Norman Smith to survey the boundary lines of the new county. This was done by October, 1848, and Smith received \$523.00 in payment. W. R. Garrett, later County Surveyor, states that the Smith survey was exceptionally accurate and no important contests have been encountered since the initial bounds were set.

Even though Cameron was the county seat, this townsite that was surveyed in 1846 did not develop; its only buildings were the county clerk's office and the log courthouse. Clinton, also surveyed in 1846, grew rapidly and its citizens were very anxious for the county seat to be moved to their town. An election was held November 12, 1848. Clinton was declared to win the election by a majority of four votes and the court ordered the county seat to be moved. This was done and court sessions were held in a rented log house in Clinton from November, 1848, to May, 1849.

The group who favored Cameron contested the election. The case remained in the courts until May, 1849; the Texas Supreme Court then declared Cameron to be the county seat. Still the townsite showed no signs of development.

Clinton secured an order from the Texas Legislature to hold another election in August, 1850. This time Clinton won an undisputed victory. The county seat was moved there at once and remained there until the change to Cuero in 1876. Beginning in March, 1851, and through October, 1852, the DeWitt County Court rented a log house at Clinton from William A. Blair for \$6.00 a month.

Three courthouses were built at Clinton. In August, 1852, the court ordered that preparation be made to build a log courthouse. On November 2, 1852, the court accepted this courthouse, Clinton's first and the county's second, and issued a draft for \$400.00 in payment.

In 1855 a frame courthouse was built. It was completed by the May term of the court. On May 22, 1855, it was reported to the court that the log house and 9 town lots had been sold for a total of \$582.50. This frame courthouse was ceiled and repairs made in 1857.

In 1858 a new two-story frame courthouse was built. In the November, 1858, term of court the finished building was insured for \$8,000. Repairs were made in July, 1869, and again in 1874. When the county seat was moved to Cuero in the spring of 1876 this Clinton courthouse was moved there at a cost of \$1,100 for transportation and repair. It burned on April 8, 1894.

The Present Courthouse With the destruction of the old building the D. W. Nash school was rented for temporary quarters. A special session of the court was called for April 10, 1894, to consider a new courthouse and the issuing of bonds. A contract was let to A. O. Watson of Austin who was unable to fulfill the contract and the building was completed by Eugene Heiner of Houston in 1896. Total cost was \$107,000.

As described by the Texas Historical Records Survey Division in the 1930's, the DeWitt County Courthouse stands

on the public square in the town of Cuero several blocks southeast of the main business district. The building is a three-story structure of light brown sandstone with facings of red sandstone. The steps are of rough pink granite. The tall clock tower rising above the front steps gives the entire building an air of dignity and stateliness.

By 1950 DeWitt County officials were finding their quarters crowded and outmoded. After discussion it was agreed, to the credit of DeWitt County citizens, to modernize rather than replace the old building which was structurally sound. Judge Stephen P. Hebert and the following County Commissioners, Joe B. Hunter, T. J. Ward, Joe R. Gras, and Fred D. DeDear, engaged the Guido Brothers Construction Company of San Antonio to rennovate the building. The task was completed late in 1957 at a cost of \$572,000.00. The present courthouse is unique; while maintaining the general appearance of the original structure the interior is distinctive, beautiful yet practical. Necessary space was added by excavating a basement to provide three modern

floors. Central air conditioning, automatic elevators, handsome office furniture, soft decor, and well lighted offices and halls made the DeWitt County courthouse one of the most attractive official buildings in the state.

The following list summarizes the history of DeWitt County Court sites:

Daniel Boone Friar's Store and Home	August, 1846-1847
Office of County Clerk in Cameron	Feb. 1847-April 1847
Cameron Courthouse	April 1847-August 1848
Clinton rented log house	Sept. 1848-May 1849
Cameron Courthouse	May 1849-August 1850
Clinton rented log house	Sept. 1850-Oct. 1852
Clinton Courthouse	Oct. 1852-April 1876
Cuero Courthouse	April 1876-Present

Post Offices and Postmasters

No United States Post Office in Texas can boast a date of establishment more than just a few months earlier than the Cuero Office which was authorized in May, 1846. This first DeWitt County Post Office was located in the home of Daniel Boone Friar which was used as a stage stopover from Victoria, Gonzales, Goliad, and La Grange. Friar sold the property in Sept., 1849, after serving as postmaster for three years. Crockett Cardwell then purchased and maintained the post office in combination with a store, stage-stop, and tavern for nearly a quarter century.

Of the many United States post offices established in DeWitt County only seven were maintained in 1961. Four of these, Cuero, Yorktown, Meyersville and Thomaston offices, have been receiving and sending out mail for more than a century. The post office at Hochheim has had its 91st anniversary, that at Nordheim, its 65th, and that at Westhoff, its 55th.

Arneckeville (3 June, 1873 - c. 1955): Henry Arnecke, William F. Harsdorff, Louis F. Schorlemmer, Richard L. Haus, Alvine Jacobs, Alvine J. Schrade, Charles H. Arnecke

Benada (9 August, 1877 - 16 December, 1879): Francis M. Robertson

Brown (16 March, 1900 - 9 June, 1900): Edward F. Vollers

Burns Station (1 July, 1873 - 18 June, 1877): Joseph Shults, Samuel Meyers, Calvin B. Phillips, Daniel Reed

Cabeza (6 April, 1899 - 15 May, 1907): Charles Moore, Walter Box, William Rutherford, Hedley Langley, Jefferson M. Mixon, Lillian A. Box, John M. Morris

Caples (21 September, 1901-): Henry Lundschen

Cheapside (5 June, 1882 - 29 March, 1890): Charles M. Gooch, W. W. Fox, Wright W. Fore, A. J. Fore, Leonidas A. Preston

Clinton (9 October, 1849 - 11 May, 1886): Richard S. Chisholm, William R. King, Theron Brownson, C. H. Clinton, E. E. Platt, Samuel H. Puckett, Andrew Stevens, Louis Lichtenstein, Carrick W. Nelson, Willis Fawcett, Lewis W. Miller, Johnson Henrys, Samuel J. Webb, James T. Kilgore, Albert Webb, Jos. R. Wofford, Jeff. D. Schrivner

Coletto (3 December, 1851 - 21 March, 1855): Adolph Tobel

Concrete (22 August, 1853 - 30 March, 1907): Joshua P. Kindred, Crockett Cardwell, Joshua P. Kindred, Thomas J. Stell, John Arnold, Ellen M. Wallis, Addison G. Bonney, John C. Woodworth, Thomas W. Dodd, Thomas R. Taylor, James H. Halse, Thomas M. Dodd, Robert L. Williams, Robert S. Williams, John B. Roehel, Thomas A. Young, Samuel F. Orman, Sarah E. Mahaffey, Mary S. Coppedge, Lena H. Jordan, Mary S. Coppedge, James A. King, Jas. P. Brown, Thomas E. Coppedge, William C. Coppedge

Conroy (16 June, 1886 - 6 September, 1887): Stephen Dunn, John P. Jamieson

Cuero (22 May, 1846 -- present): Daniel B. Friar, Leroy C. Fudge, Lorenzo Heaton, Rudolph Frank, August Holzapfel, J. C. Woodworth, William Drawe, David W. Nash, William Drawe, Ebb P. Butler, J. C. Woodworth, William J. Ott

Davy (3 December, 1895 - c. 1938): William Poetter

Edgar (Grassbur 1 June, 1873 - 30 January , 1888); (1 June, 1873-15 April, 1907---to Cuero); (23 February, 1912 - c. 1940): Thomas M. Dodd, James F. Cunningham, Sam B. Pincham, William A. Bates, Sanders Dykes, Samuel E. Ricks, Annie J. White, Guy Smothers, Edna Lee Smothers

Foresville (29 September, 1871 - 2 October, 1876): Thomas Duren

Grassbur (1 June, 1887 - 30 January, 1888): Allea A. Hutton,
Alexander M. Hutton

Guilford (17 August, 1903 - 14 January, 1905): Edward R. Piland

Heaton (17 November, 1899 - 31 January, 1902): William A.
Squyres

Hesterville (16 October, 1855 - 1 August, 1857): Robert H. Hester

Hochheim (17 August, 1870 - present): Theodore Schwab, John
W. Schwab, Charles T. Schwab, James W. Hulse, Charles
T. Schwab, John H. Cunningham, Charles F. Timme,
Francis K. Lynch, Finley D. Blackwell, William C.
McCaskill, Hans Boedecker, William H. Schweitzer,
William C. McCaskill, James P. Kelly, Jr.

Irish Creek (9 June, 1851 - 27 October, 1853); (7 November, 1853-
14 August, 1854): Arthur Burns, Samuel D. Reynolds

Kokernot (19 December, 1890 - 17 June, 1895): John B. Rachel

Langley (24 August, 1898 - 9 May, 1899): Hedley F. Langley

Lindenau (29 July, 1895 - 1948): Gustav A. Markowsky, August
Pfeil, Robert Kahlert, William C. Buckhorn, Joe Dieringer

Live Oak (12 November, 1849 - 9 October, 1868): Johnathan Scott,
Wiley Duren, Elisha B. Davis

Meyersville (22 December, 1851 - present): Mrs. Mariana Meyer,
John Kron, Henry Hausmann, Isaac Egg, Edwin Egg, Rudolph
Egg

Mount Petrea (9 September, 1851 - 22 May, 1856): James A.
Crawford

Nopal (24 October, 1896 - c. 1960): Fred F. Schwab, Casper
Hattenback, Frank J. Schubert, James W. Archer, Louis M.
Riggs, Mrs. Ioma Munson, Ioma Munson, Rugus D. Archer,
Birdye Baker, J. W. Deborah

Nordheim (23 January, 1896 - present): Henry Schlessner,
Gustav Osterloh, Carl W. Buehring, Alfred M. Zedler,
Theodor Reichert

Peru (5 June, 1857 - 6 August, 1858): Robert P. McCorkle

Pierpont Place (31 March, 1852 - 4 August, 1870): William
Pierpont, William R. Wallace, William Albrecht

Prices Creek (Thomaston after 23 June, 1873); (25 April, 1854 -
11 October, 1866); (3 February, 1869 - 23 November, 1877):
Bolivar J. Pridgen, Lauren Smith, Charles L. Stadtler,
Valentine R. Cook, Bolivar J. Pridgen

Rabke (14 April, 1898 - 15 July, 1905): Andrew M. Coats,
Edward T. Rabke

Stratton (16 November, 1887 - 28 February, 1905): Charles F.
Middlebrook, William W. McKissack, William A. Luhrsen
George A. Peavy, William J. Drake

Terryville (15 February, 1869 - 31 December, 1907): Eli
McDonald, John Gerber, James D. Terry, E. M. Switch,
John I. Woodrowe, William Thrift, Mrs. Dora Woodrowe,
George S. Cook, William C. Thrift, John W. Stell, Charles
W. Dickinson, William A. Goodson, Joseph F. Moffett,
Arthur T. Moffett, John B. Treagforth, Perry E. Edgar

Thomaston (Prices Creek prior); (23 June, 1873 - 11 December, 1873);
(23 November, 1877 - present): Emile Lautom, Humphrey Heard,
Hanford McD. Whiteman, James H. Pridgen, William J.
McManus, Oscar F. Pridgen, David C. Pridgen, John H.
Conwell, Oscar W. Pridgen

Westhoff (Bello 1906 - 1909); (10 December, 1906): William S.
Moore, George E. Rehmet, Emanuel T. Teller, Frank K.
Lynch, Emanuel T. Teller

Yorktown (10 March, 1851 - present): John A. King, James S.
Kilgore, Mathias Kreisle, John A. King, William Stark,
Jack Gugenheim, Frank B. Gohmert, Moritz Riedel,
J. W. Hoff, Charles T. Hoff, Ada A. Ladner

Republic of Texas Post Office : Quairo (very likely Cuero)
This site is mentioned in William Kennedy's History of
Texas. It is likely the location of the later Friar-
Cardwell Store.

Confederate States of America Post Offices

Clinton (12 July, 1861 - 1865): T. Bronson

Concrete (17 July, 1861 - 1865): John Arnold

Meyersville (14 August, 1861 - 1865): Adolph Meyer

Pierpont Place (12 July, 1861 - 1865): W. R. Wallace

Prices Creek (12 July, 1861 - 1865): V. Cook, M. B. Rankin,
Edwin L. Snow, Thomas F. Cook

Yorktown (13 August, 1861 - 1865): Walton Anderson

County Officials

Since the organization of the county in 1846 DeWitt County residents have enjoyed in the major posts of county government a number of citizens who have demonstrated, in both the administrative and enforcement branches, extraordinary leadership and civic responsibility. Many of these county officials, eg., Robert Justus Kleberg, Rudolph Kleberg, William J. Weisiger, James Norman Smith, John McCrabb, and others, are notable in the annals of southwestern history.

County leadership in the early days was exercised by men who migrated to Texas from Tennessee, Mississippi, and other southern states. Not a few of the earliest officers were natives or second generation Germans, who like their countrymen elsewhere in Texas brought many talents to the frontier. Indianola served as port of entry and the Guadalupe River and its tributaries the basis for farming and stock-raising. These earliest officials cultivated the earth and attended at the same time to civic affairs. A survey of their biographies indicates education to have been a foremost aspiration. They were taught in community and county schools; a surprisingly large number went on to attend Concrete College, Nash Academy, and out-of-state colleges and universities. Though legal training prepared most of them, cultural attainments were not overlooked.

The causes of Texas and Southern independence inspired a great many of these DeWitt County pioneers. The post-Civil War days brought the county its share of Reconstruction difficulties; freed and dislocated Negroes, fields in weeds, buildings in disrepair and scarred minds met the returning soldiers. These conditions served as a climate in which feuding, lawlessness, and general demoralization thrived. Blended with military

occupation and its political ramifications it was this situation which gave rise to the troubled times of the 1860's and 1870's.

Following the Civil War and Reconstruction hardships, ranching, railroading, and business enterprise took their places as co-interests of the DeWitt County officers. Though today it is still agricultural activity which claims major attention, DeWitt County civic leaders are more and more confronted with the responsibilities, problems, and opportunities of an area contributing to the commercial expansion, mineral exploitation, and general industrialization of the state. In particular DeWitt County is presently concerned with a problem of real consequence, that of water conservation. Her officers and citizens are on the frontier again, but this time it is a frontier reflecting the needs of a changing economy. Situated as it is, in the heart of the Guadalupe River Valley, DeWitt County may well be considered as a proving ground for inter-county and even more extensive water programming.

DeWitt County Judges John Troy (1846-1847), Hugh R. Young (1847-1848), Rollins B. Wofford (1848-1850), James McCulloch Baker (1850-1852), Robert Justus Kleberg (1852-1856), Thomas J. Waters (1856-1859), H. R. Boston (1859-1865), James McCulloch Baker (1865-1867), J. T. Kilgore (1867-1869), T. E. Grothouse (1869-1876), Otto L. Threlkeld (1876-1882), Francis J. Lynch (1882-1883), James D. Terry (1883-1891), L. L. Crouch (1891-1892), Ed Koenig (1892-1896), Charles A. Summers (1896-1908), Rudolph Kleberg (1908-1912), R. J. Waldeck (1912-1918), J. L. Boal (1918-1922), Stanley Kulawik (1922-1933), Thomas A. Graves (1933-1941), Stephen Hebert (1941-1962) G. W. Trowell (1962-)

Sheriffs William P. Patterson (1846-), Kerr Bingham White (1849-1851), Jacob A. Miller (1851-1852), James P. Collins (1852-1853), John R. Foster (1853-1858), B. M. Odom (1859-1864), Jacob A. Miller (1865-1866), James Frank Blair (1867-1869), Jack Helm (1870-1873), George W. Jacobs (1870-1872), William J. Weisiger (1873-1880), T. G. Patterson (1881-1886), Addison Kilgore (1887-1888), P. Fielding Breeden (1889-1892), Thomas M. Stell (1893-1906), Jesse Farris (1907-1916), John Pace (1917-1922), Gus Lenz (1923-1933), Emil R. Markowsky (1934-1938), Louis A. Buehrig (1939-1946), Bill Hartman (1947-1958), Ray L. Markowsky (1959-)

County Clerks James Norman Smith (1846-1865), Thomas Crutcher Smith (1865-1868), Willis Fawcett (1868-1876), William (Bob) Fawcett (1876-1878), James Porter Baker (1878-1900), G. P. Box (1900-1920), J. Terry Newman (1920-1924), J. P. Bridges (1924-1934),

Henry J. Koenig (1934-1954), Ray Gips (1954-)

Tax Assessors/Collectors John McCrabb (1846-1848), Charles A. Tuton (1849-1851), Lewis Delony (1851-1852), Jacob A. Miller (1852-1853), Achilles Stapp (1853-1854), Nicholas I. Ryan (1854-), James Brown (- 1879), Charles T. Schwab, Sr. (1880-1907), Thomas M. Stell (1908-1923), Fritz Poetter (1924-1942), Frank Thieme (1943-)

County Auditors Joseph Smith Edgar (1917-1920), Legrand G. Covey (1920-1935), Nic L. Ladner (1935-1954), R. J. Skinner (1954-resigned in August, 1954), Jerome W. Koenig (1954-)

County Treasurers Robert Peebles (1848), David Smith (1848-1851), Louis DeMoss (1852-1853), William P. Stapp (1854-), Herman E. Dahlman (-1909), Ed Koenig (1910-1915), William Wagner (1916-1926), Thomas M. Stell (1926-1939), Alvin Barnes (1940-1947), Henry Mugge (1948-)

District Clerks Joseph L. Baker (1846-1848), George H. Davis (1849-1850), William A. Blair (1851-1866), William Grafton (1867-1869), G. W. Brooks, Jr. (1870-1871), William Grafton (1872-1875), Robert Justus Kleberg (1876-1879), Charles C. Howerton (1880-1892), Henry Brown Edgar (1893-1905), Thomas Jackson Kennedy (1906-1933), Maggie Edgar (1933-1950), Pershing Hiller (1951-)

Civil War and Reconstruction Since DeWitt County was populated by persons from the southern, slave-states, her sympathies, with notable exceptions, were with that section. Taken from a basic cross-section of early pioneer families the following statistics (based on 68 families) indicates this orientation: Mississippi-born - 10; Tennessee-born - 8; South Carolina-born - 7; Kentucky-born - 7; Virginia-born - 6; North Carolina-born - 5; Alabama-born - 4; Florida-born - 3; Georgia-born - 1. The northern states were represented in this total by 3 from New York, 2 from Pennsylvania and 1 from Massachusetts. Also among the total were 5 from Germany, 3 from France, and 3 from Ireland.

In pursuance of the state law of 1858 providing for the recruiting of local military units for ultimate state service, DeWitt County citizens organized a number of infantry and cavalry companies (see Appendix). Many prominent pioneer names appear as officers, non-commissioned officers, and men in these volunteer companies.

By 1859 the state rights faction had captured control of the Democratic Party machinery in the South. The Whig movement

was dead, and no support existed for the new and sectional Republican Party in DeWitt County. In 1852 there had been 138 votes cast in the county for the national Democratic nominee; the Whigs received 66. In 1856 the Democrats received 235, the Whig electors none, and the Knownothings 108. The 1859 gubernatorial election in DeWitt County gave Sam Houston, a unionist, 228 votes and H. R. Runnels 259.

Texans were active in Baltimore in 1860 when the Southern Democratic Convention nominated John C. Breckenridge. A leading figure in Texas, Sam Houston, received 57 votes to John Bell's 68 1/2 in the Constitutional Union Party's balloting. DeWitt County citizens cast, in the presidential election of 1860, 491 votes for Breckenridge, 83 for Bell and none for Lincoln.

The series of events in which Houston held out for continued union and O. M. Roberts captured political leadership culminated in the January, 1861, Secession Convention of Texas. In DeWitt County the election for convention delegates produced for William R. Scurry, Fielding Jones, J. J. Holt, and F. S. Stockdale the respective votes of 365, 363, 364, and 363. On the question of holding such a convention the county voted 365 for and only one opposed.

The referendum election of February 23, 1861, decided the question of secession as follows:

Precinct	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
For	119	35	39	76	93	82	6		22
Against	4	21	1	0	23	0	0		0

Total returns were 472 for and 49 votes opposed to disunion. Action was taken in March, 1861, to link Texas and DeWitt County to the Confederate States of America which had already formed a government in Montgomery, Alabama, in February.

A survey of precinct returns in this and other elections indicates that those German settlements west of the Guadalupe River manifested very different political and economic affiliations than did the communities east of the river where Anglo-Americans were in the majority. These differences, especially in regard to the question of secession and civil war, increased to the northwest as the number of Germans in those counties toward the hill country reached a majority of the total residents in the respective counties.

The Texas Germans had arrived in the 1840's and 1850's when civil war and general disunity threatened their homes. Because of their devotion to the Union and aversion to slavery (German cotton was worked by the Germans themselves and not slaves and, because of special care in its handling brought, more money on the market

than did the slave-grown variety) many of them were opposed to secession and the continuation of the practice of human bondage.

Once committed to the Confederate cause DeWitt County's inhabitants displayed much of the typical Southern devotion even under the most severe handicaps and privations. A commitment by the students of the Viola Case School (Mrs. Case had relocated her female boarding school to Clinton from Victoria due to the military threats to the Confederate Gulf Coast) demonstrates this devotion:

Reverend Joel T. Case reported in April, 1865, that:

An incident occurred yesterday in my family, consisting of some 20 boarding school misses, which I deem worthy of publicity. I mentioned at the table the appeal of your correspondent (he addressed his message to a newspaper), a Confederate woman, to the ladies of Texas to contribute money, jewels, plate, etc., to aid out beloved President Jefferson Davis in paying our soldiers a moiety of their dues in specie. At breakfast the following instrument was drawn up:

Clinton Female Academy
April 27, 1865

In compliance with the call of our beloved President, Jefferson Davis, for contributions from the women of the Confederacy of money, jewelry, plate, etc., and as a humble yet most hearty tribute to the value and self-sacrificing devotion of our soldiers the undersigned agree to contribute the articles and sums affixed to our names.

Reverend Case continued:

Under this caption in less than one-half hour the sum of \$60 was raised made up of bracelets, earrings, silver cups, and money. . . . When the matter was submitted to the whole school, about \$40 more was obtained in jewelry and money.

The concern and dedication of the Case School students was shared by the county as a whole and must have been appreciated if not sufficient to affect materially the fantastic privations of the county's men in the field among whom were the following: Andrew Jackson Bell, Colonel August Buchel, Columbus Burns (Mexican border duty), John Richard Calhoun, (Chickamauga and Murphreesboro), Samuel Daniel Calhoun (Federal prisoner for 17 months), Austin H. Clegg, George A. Ferguson (Shiloh, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Atlanta), Dr. William Dyche Finney, Alfred Friar, William S. Friar (Federal prisoner), Captain Francis J. Lynch, John Frederick McCrabb (member of Hudson's Company of scouts on the Rio Grande), James Albert McDonald, William J. McManus (member of Ford's Regiment on the Rio Grande and later Pyron's Regiment), James Hollis Moore (member of McCulloch's Brigade at Milligan's Bend, Mansfield, and Pleasant Hill), Judge David Murphree, Alex Murphree, James Hill Pridgen (Iuka, Lookout Mountain), Redding Smith Pridgen, Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr., Robert James Rankin, Major Gustav Schleicher, James and William Sutton (members of Waller's Battalion), John Pettus York, Josiah York, William J. Weisiger, Dr. William Watt White, Edmund Fox Wilson (member of Wood's Regiment), and scores of others.

Providing for the relief of DeWitt County families who were hard put to make a living during the war was the job of George W. Brooks who was appointed to purchase corn for needy families in the area. In 1863 a draft for \$2,000 was recorded for such relief. The corn, after purchase, was distributed to agents for allocation, and on one occasion complaint was registered as to its quality. Judge David Irvin, an agent, received the following letter:

Prices Creek Nov 28
(no year)

Those soldiers wives you was to deliver your corn to have notified me that they will not accept such corn as you sent. They say if they can't get better corn they will make some other shift or do without - they will not have the name of being helped by the county if it is to be such nubbins as that when there is good corn in the country.

By summer, 1865, the Confederate States of America had passed from reality into memory, and DeWitt County suffered those ills common to the South in general (though Texas had many fewer problems than the older southern states) and those peculiar to the Guadalupe Valley. Veterans returned to find fields overgrown,

transportation facilities disrupted, a severe social dislocation resulting from the new status of the Negro, and the basic industry of the county (cattle and horse raising) victim to innumerable thieves.

From 1865 to 1867 the political structure of Texas was little changed under the "Johnson government" of Governor Throckmorton. But after 1867 with the triumph of the Radical Republicans in the critical mid-term elections of 1866, the United States Congress inaugurated and implemented a bold and comprehensive plan designed to "reconstruct" the ex-Confederate States. In 1869 Radical Republican conventions and legislatures transformed Texas political organization and by 1870 law enforcement, already for some time subject to military occupational supervision, was centralized under the administration of Governor Edmund Jackson Davis. The Police and Militia Acts passed in 1870 resulted in Captain C. S. Bell and Jack Helm being assigned to DeWitt County and surrounding territory for the purpose of "restoring order". Contemporary records show the following officers assigned in 1871:

Capt. Jack Helm, Concrete; J. W. Cox, Clinton; R. B. Hudson, Clinton; H. Y. Leftage, Clinton; Jos. Tumlinson, Yorktown; O. H. Bennett, Yorktown; J. B. Taylor, Yorktown.

Another list of county officers reveals the following justices to have been serving in the same year: O. K. Tuton, J. Edgar, L. B. Wright, Ferdinand Ploeger, and Williams Byers; sheriff, Jack Helm and William Grafton, clerk.

During this tragic era of lawlessness and extraordinary law enforcement, DeWitt County won an exaggerated reputation as a major seat of feuding activity. Sources both reputable and otherwise have erred in regard to the alinement of the citizenry, the numbers of persons actively engaged in the military and later local conflicts, and the origin and final settlement of those conflicts. Brave men like Captain McNelly, Judge H. Clay Pleasants, and Sheriff William Weisiger finally restored DeWitt County's earlier harmony.

In July, 1865, Tom Smith, son of James Norman Smith, reflected on the "reconstruction" atmosphere:

We are now living under a Military Dictator, rather a (sic) Provisional government. Although I accept the situation from necessity, yet must I say that I can expect nothing but oppression for several years. There are not troops in Clinton, but they are expected here; any amount of them at Victoria and Lavaca (both

black and white). I am afraid there will be trouble with the Negroes - "Freedmen", as our Dictator says we must call them. They have done tolerable well so far, but a great many of them are roving over the county, and it will be a great deal worse after Christmas, as many of their contracts will be out then.

Military Reconstruction passed and by 1870 Texas representatives were again sitting in the National Congress. Troubles continued on the local scene, however, and it was six years before the "redemption" government and a new state constitution were inaugurated. The new document, as a result of their desire to extirpate some of the elements of "black reconstruction", was so drafted by its authors that its usefulness was forever to be much impaired.

As rail heads crept across the Kansas plains in the 1870's and the cattle industry regained, even far surpassed, its former importance the Texas economy revived. Livestock, general farming with concentration on cotton, the advent of rail and later highway transportation, and exploitation of underground resources all figure in the transition making for an economic and social framework unknown during the fateful days of disunion and disorder.

World War I The declaration of war by the United States on the German Empire in 1917 initiated the most widely adhered to cause seen in DeWitt County's history to that date. The Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil War challenges had brought cooperation, but by 1917 the new transportation and communication facilities allowed for a degree of organization impossible during the earlier conflicts.

Serving in the United States Army from DeWitt County were 29 commissioned officers, 169 enlisted and 69 inducted men. Of these 29 were wounded, 11 decorated, and 36 killed. Sixty residents saw Navy service (five of these lost their lives) and 3 enlisted in the Marine Corps. From the total of 1,048 only 10 were discharged under less than honorable conditions.

Many civilian agencies contributed to the material comfort, moral support, and financial underwriting of the troops. Under the State Council of Defense (R. J. Kleberg was a member of this organization), which was closely allied to the National Council, were 240 county councils of seven members each. R. J. Waldeck, County Judge of DeWitt County, appointed the initial county council consisting of Philip Welhausen (Yoakum), J. F. Elder (Cheapside), M. G. Eckhardt (Yorktown), Alex Hamilton (Cuero), D. B. McManus (Thomaston), Walter Reiffert (Cuero), and C. G. Breeden (Cuero). L. A. Walker, Tom Burns, and F. W. Jaeggli were later appointed to aid in the purposes (organizing rallies, presenting speakers,

promoting bond sales, encouraging subordinate Community Councils (discouraging the use of the German language, economic coordination and settlement of labor problems) of the council. A Women's Council of DeWitt County supplemented the work of the County Council, the slogan of which was "Serve at Home, or Serve at the Front."

A Medical Advisory Board was appointed to examine those involved in selective service appeals. Cuero was, on account of its hospital facilities and number of physicians, selected as the seat of one of fifteen such districts in Texas. The following doctors served after appointment by the governor: J. W. Burns, chairman; Joe Reuss, Marvin Duckworth, Will Traylor, Will Gillett, and Louis Kleinecke. Branches of the board were later established at Yoakum and Victoria.

The Legal Advisory Board assisted registrants and their dependents in complying with the numerous legal requirements and enjoying the new benefits of service allotments, insurance, etc. In April, 1918, the body announced its policy of aiding dependents without compensation in securing certain entitlements.

A county arm of the National Food Administration was inaugurated in February, 1918. Dr. J. H. Reuss was appointed to carry out the tasks of the organization which included popularization of the national campaign of "wheatless" and "meatless" meals and general conservation of food stuffs.

Red Cross headquarters during the war were maintained at Cuero after May 1, 1917. The first officers of the county chapter were Mrs. George J. Schleicher (chairman), Mrs. J. T. Day (vice-chairman), Mrs. A. S. Bush (secretary), Mrs. I. N. Mitchell (treasurer). Branches of the county unit were established at Yorktown (Rev. J. K. Poch, chairman), Westhoff (Mrs. Joe Carter), and Nordheim (Rev. C. D. Hassdar). Auxiliaries were located in Concrete (Mrs. Claudia Barth, chairman), Hochheim (Mrs. Val Bennet), Davy (Mrs. A. Poetter), Nopal (Mrs. F. H. Billings), Meyersville (Mrs. A. Egg), Clinton (Mrs. A. E. Brown), Friedland, Svoboda (Mrs. Joe Chamrod), and Helping Hand (Miss Mary E. Sweeney).

A number of Liberty Loan drives were, after initial disappointments, quite successful. The chairman of the campaigns was R. J. Waldeck, county judge. The first drive brought \$62,000, the second \$232,050, the third \$666,250 (\$253,200 over the county quota) with 5,983 subscribers, and the fourth \$813,250 (quota was \$763,000).

The Thrift and Savings Stamp campaign was conducted to encourage frugality, imbue the spirit of sacrifice, and allow for savings. The Thrift Stamp cost 35¢. The Savings Stamp bore 4% interest to be redeemed in January, 1923; its cost was \$4.12 and

purchase was limited to \$100 at any one time. Joseph Sheridan, of the Cuero Post Office, was chairman of the stamp campaign. Subscriptions on stamps ultimately topped the county quota by \$20,000.

In July, 1917, the Four Minute Men, an organization under the jurisdiction of the National Defense Council, was established. Joseph Hirsch of Corpus Christi, head of the state unit, appointed Berthold Schewitz to replace Alex Hamilton (initial officer in charge) as county chairman. This group sponsored rallies, speeches, and bond issues. Nordheim's Junior Soldiers of the Soil Army supported the war effort through conservation, food production, and bond and stamp sale activity.

III EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND SITES

The foundation of DeWitt County was laid in the land grants of Empresario Green DeWitt. The titles lay along the Guadalupe River and its several tributaries which provided an excellent supply of fresh water. Two settlements emerged in the 1820's: one, Irish Creek (1826), was initiated by Arthur Burns; it developed into a community of some 500 persons with stores, church and school facilities, and a government post office. This community's name was changed to Burns Station in 1872. The other community of this decade was Upper Cuero Creek Settlement (1827) which developed into the first DeWitt County town, Concrete (1846) with the first school (1840), church (1841), and state-chartered college. These two villages served as nuclei around which other towns grew. Both of them have nearly disappeared but represent still the original settlements of the decade of the 1820's when virgin soil inspired immigration to the Guadalupe Valley.

The decade of the 1830's brought the establishment of a major center, that of Friar's Place, at the junction of the Gonzales-Victoria and La Grange-La Bahia Roads. This combination home, store, stage-stop, and post office marks the beginning of the period of significant DeWitt County expansion.

Following the Texas Revolution, security and the attraction of land for farming and stock-raising drew settlers during the most important era of the county's development - the 1840's and 1850's.

With the establishment of DeWitt County in March, 1846, several communities were started. Cameron (1846), Clinton (1846), Concrete (1846), Meyersville (1846), Yorktown (1846), Prices Creek (1848), and others developed. The struggle to locate the county seat accounts for the first two and land, whether taken up by Anglo-American or the efficient German farmers, who settled west of the Guadalupe, for the others. Some of these settlements flourished and then died. Others, in the path of railroads or highways lived on to the present.

The decades of the 1840's and the 1850's were, as in other parts of Texas, a time when DeWitt County received her exiles from the German revolutions of the 1840's. Hochheim and Yorktown grew with large German majorities, and Meyersville (1846) and Arneckeville (1859) were totally German as was Lateiner, a scholar's haven. These immigrants lived at first under very primitive conditions, subsisting on fish from the creeks, rabbits from the fields and eggs of the prairie chickens; the Germans raised vegetables, a unique contribution to the Texas diet, wove their cloth, and worked hard. Walking to Indianola, a journey of a week's duration, was common until the DeWitt Germans caught and tamed the mustangs that roamed the northwestern region of the county. Handmade plows and other wooden implements complemented the arduous labors and persistent

temperament of these settlers, many of whom were highly educated professionals and scholars, and the German communities prospered.

During the Civil War years no communities were established. The next decade of Reconstruction was far from quiet, but only three towns emerged from the general social dislocation - Thomaston (1872), Cuero (1873), and Cabeza (1876); the first two resulted from railroad intrusion which opened economic and professional opportunities for some while bypassing and decimating other centers of population.

By the 1870's the "long drive" had become common and the next twenty year period saw many communities, both east and west of the Guadalupe, grow out of the economic encouragement of northern demand for Texas beeves and other products such as cotton and corn, all of which could be collected and shipped by rail.

Since the turn of the century only Westhoff (1906), Petersville (1925), and several other towns have taken shape. It was first empresario grants, then general farming, political independence and statehood, and lastly the cattle and cotton incentives which laid the foundation for DeWitt County. The following historical sketches are offered to commemorate both the extant and extinct county centers.

Arneckeville, a German community eight miles south of Cuero, was begun in 1859; no name was given to the settlement until 1872 when a United States Post Office was established. Adam Christoph Henry Arnecke and his wife U. Barbara Sager Arnecke were the first residents of the community. Their log house stood from 1859 to 1947. The next settlers were Pastor Christopher and Justine Dreir Sager; Mrs. Frederick Rath Sager and her twin sons Michael and Peter Sager; Mrs. Sophie Brandes Arnecke and her son William. Later George Gerhold, the Olfers and the Eismans arrived.

These early settlers lived in log houses with indoor fireplaces for heating and cooking. They were principally farmers and worked oxen, used handmade tools of wood, and fenced their fields with rails and brush until barbed wire came into use about 1884. Much of their pasture was unfenced and their stock ran free; hogs ran wild and fattened on acorns. The early Germans had no clocks but reckoned time by the sun and used candles for light.

The women were industrious workers who spun cotton and wool thread to use in knitting socks and stockings and weaving cloth. For blue dye they used indigo weeds and for yellow, the spunk that formed on decayed blackjacks.

The Zion Lutheran Church was constructed of logs in 1865; a second building was erected in 1875; a third was dedicated in

1938 and was still being used in 1948. The first pastor was Rev. Adam Sager in 1866. Other pastors were Rev. J. Frehner (1870), Rev. H. Pfenninger (1876), Rev. S. F. Praubel (1896), Rev. W. Kelps (1900), Rev. J. Hertzog (1902), Rev. G. Rapp (1906), J. M. Bergner (1909), Rev. S. Nikolas (1925), Rev. E. Meir and Rev. William Durkoff (1945-1948).

The church building served as a school and pastors taught for a number of years. In 1890 A. C. H. Arnecke gave an acre of land and a school house was built; Mr. Stolz was the first principal and Miss Sophie Schorlemmer assistant. Approximately 100 pupils attended. Other early teachers were Irene Galley, M. Hausman (1891), and Ernest Meier (1892). In 1925 a modern two-room school house was built; in 1948 Arneckeville had a one-teacher school. In 1950 the nearby Green DeWitt School consolidated with Arneckeville School. This continues (1961) as one of the county's three remaining rural schools.

After the Civil War (A. C. H. Arnecke, Michael Sager, and Pete Sager all served; Peter Sager was killed.), A. C. H. Arnecke opened the first store (1872), a general merchandise establishment. Those who operated the store since Arnecke's proprietorship were William F. Hasdorf (1898), Louis F. Schorlemmer (1908), Richard L. Hans (1915), E. F. Afflerback (1919), Isaac Egg and Sons (1922), W. T. McLarty (1944) and Walter Wold (1946).

The first post office was authorized in 1872 and the community took the name of Arneckeville to honor the first settler.

Henry Post opened a blacksmith shop in 1878. Successive owners of this establishment were John Recker, Sr., Louis Schley, John Recker, Jr., Oscar Rodein, Otto Koenig, August Boldt, Fred Jutz, and Walter Gerhold. The town's first cotton gin began operation in 1870; a more modern plant was built in 1900.

Early carpenters and wheelwrights of the community were Messrs. Gerhold and Rabke, Rabke and Haberkorn. Dr. C. A. H. Arnecke, son of the community's founder, built the settlement's first drug store and a hospital was erected in the same year. Other doctors who practiced at Arneckeville from time to time were Drs. Watkins, Fuchamnea, Moore, and Johnson. Dr. C. A. H. Arnecke continued his practice until his sudden death in September, 1949, at the age of 87 years.

Arneckeville received electrical power from R. E. A. in 1940; Bell Telephone Company made connections in 1949. There has never been a railroad to serve the community nearer than Cuero, but stage coaches from Clinton passed through the settlement in the early days. There is no motor bus service, and mail is received through Cuero. Arneckeville's population in 1948 was 300 and in 1960 100.

The year 1947 brought sadness and disaster to Arneckeville. C. H. Arnecke died in July. Fire completely destroyed the Arnecke Store on Thursday, August 14, 1947; all contents were lost. The building was used, at the time of the fire, as a combination drug store, Dr. C. A. H. Arnecke's office, the Walter Wolf grocery store, and the post office. In September, 1947, Dr. C. A. H. Arnecke passed away suddenly before a new store was completed.

Buchel Switch was located on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad (later Texas and New Orleans) where it crossed the Jim Bell ranch about seven miles across the Guadalupe River from Cuero. The switch was built during the year 1887 and was a much used shipping point for cattle in the 1890's.

Cabeza The Spaniards very early gave the name Cabeza to a creek which rises in the southern part of the Francisco Real Survey near the center of DeWitt County's western boundary. The creek flows southwest into Karnes County. It was on the headwaters of this creek, near the eastern boundary of Karnes County that the community of Cabeza was founded. Cabeza community was started about 1876 by three sheep men, P. P. Short, John Riley, and Joshua Butler. Earlier there had been a Strickland Ranch in this vicinity, but the ranch home had burned and the settlers had moved on. In 1876 these three families at Cabeza, which was situated about mid-way between Yorktown in DeWitt County and Helena in Karnes County, were the only residents between these two towns. This Cabeza section is the highest part of DeWitt County with an elevation of 859 feet.

By 1888 Cabeza community had about 25 inhabitants. A community school was started on the P. P. Short Ranch; its first teacher was Robert E. L. Magee. Later the Cabeza public school was started in a one-room house; the Baptist and Methodist congregations held services in this school house. The Methodists also had two acres of land nearby on Cabeza Creek. This land was obtained from J. M. Morris and wife on April 26, 1902. For many years thereafter well-attended camp meetings were held on these grounds each summer.

The J. O. Short store was the first one at Cabeza; other merchants there from time to time were H. Langley, Charles Moore, William Rutherford, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Johnnie Mixon. The Cabeza post office was established April 6, 1899, and discontinued May 15, 1907. During this time the community had three stores and the John C. Butler blacksmith shop. The Kasten and Ulrich gin turned out around 1000 bales of cotton yearly until the advent of the boll weevil.

Cabeza community was first a sheep and later a cattle center; it then prospered for a number of years with "King Cotton". In 1948

it was a ranching area with about 150 inhabitants in the school district that maintained a small school for white children and a separate one for Mexicans. The schools were discontinued in the 1950's.

Cameron On June 23, 1846, DeWitt County Commissioners Court accepted the 100 acres of John J. Tumlinson survey land east of the Guadalupe River than Joseph Tumlinson donated for DeWitt County first county seat. On August 11, 1846, the Court decided to name the site Cameron in honor of Ewen Cameron - a Mier Expedition prisoner who was slain by order of Santa Anna. By November 10, 1846, James Norman Smith had completed surveying and laying off the town in blocks and lots, and on that date Joseph Tumlinson deeded the 100 acres to DeWitt County. Many of these lots were sold, but no homes were ever built at Cameron. It was the county seat for only a brief period.

The town was located near the east bank of the Guadalupe River, three and one-half miles above Chisholm Ferry, almost opposite the confluence of the Sandies with the Guadalupe River, and about two and one-half miles northwest of present Cuero. In July, 1846, James Norman Smith hauled pecan clapboards on a cart drawn by oxen from his place near Concrete and built his county clerk's office. In March 1847, the DeWitt County Commissioner's Court had a log court house built there. It was 8' high, 18' wide, 20' long, covered with clapboards with one door and one shutter. These were the only two buildings constructed at Cameron.

Clinton The first settlers of the area in which Clinton was located were colonists who received headright grants of land from Empresario Green DeWitt. Richard Chisholm, his wife, and two children settled on this land west of the Guadalupe River in January, 1829; Andrew Lockhart, his wife and seven children settled nearby in March, 1829.

In the fall of 1829 the Lockhart daughter Matilda and three visiting Putman children were stolen by Comanche Indians while they were gathering pecans in the river bottom. By the time the parents missed the children and suspected what had happened, the Indians were too far away for the pursuers to overtake them before they reached the hills above Austin. Matilda was later rescued. Her health was greatly impaired and she soon died. The other three children were never found.

About 1839 Richard Chisholm began operating the Chisholm Ferry across the Guadalupe River some three and one-half miles below the confluence of the Sandies with the river. He soon opened a store in a log house near the ferry. He also operated a horse-driven gristmill that was patronized by the early settlers as far away as the Meyersville section. These and the Richard "Uncle Dick" Chisholm home were the meager improvements up to the date of the establishment there of the townsite of Clinton in 1846.

When DeWitt County was created by the Texas legislature on March 24, 1846, Chisholm was very anxious to have the county seat located on his land. He deeded 640 acres to four men - William H. Patterson, William P. Stapp, Samuel Donalds, and Jacob A. Miller. They were given instructions to see that the 640 acres was surveyed as a townsite and to make earnest efforts to induce the commissioners Daniel Boone Friar, John Troy, James Blair, and James McCulloch Baker to locate the county seat on the survey.

The townsite was surveyed by James Norman Smith. It was named Clinton for a son of Empresario Green DeWitt. But Chisholm's friends would not grant the commissioners the amount of the township land that would be required for the county seat. This was a great disappointment to Chisholm.

The Commissioners located the county seat on land of the J. J. Tumlinson survey east of the Guadalupe; it was named Cameron. Clinton grew rapidly and the citizens were anxious to have the county seat moved there. After months of indecision due to a contested election and court procedures, Clinton clearly won in a second election, and the county seat was moved there in August, 1850. Cameron had never developed; no homes were built there--only the log courthouse and county clerk's office. In later years the donated land reverted back to Tumlinson heirs.

The court meetings at Clinton were held in a log house, rented from William A. Blair for six dollars a month, until a log courthouse was built; this was DeWitt County's second and Clinton's first; it was accepted by the court on November 2, 1852. Its cost was \$400. A frame courthouse was built and accepted in the May term of court of the year 1855. A report was given that the log courthouse and nine town lots had been sold for a total of \$582.50. In 1858, Clinton built its third and last courthouse--a two-story frame building, which was insured during the November term of court for \$8,000. This building was moved to Cuero when the county seat was located there in 1876.

In the latter part of 1852, the two-story Masonic Hall was built; it was dedicated January 22, 1853, at which date Cameron Lodge No. 76 was moved to Clinton from Cardwell's store where it had been located since it was organized November 5, 1850. It continued at Clinton until July 6, 1877, when it was moved to Yorktown where it remains (1960).

The Liveoak Presbyterian Church became Clinton's first church in 1850. The residents worshiped under an arbor in good weather and in Blair's log house, being used for court meetings, when it was necessary to be indoors. Elder James N. Smith was very enthusiastic in recruiting people to attend the church services. Before the hour of worship on Sundays, he would go to the saloons, stores, and shops and give this invitation to the clerks and customers:

"Come, boys, close up business and go hear the preacher in the grove." When Presbytery met in Clinton in the fall of 1851, the meetings and services were held under the arbor. At this meeting the James Norman Smith family entertained sixty guests for Sunday dinner which was served in the yard. Worship under the arbor was discontinued in the fall of 1852. Then both the Presbyterians and the Methodists held services in Clinton's log courthouse until the Presbyterians built their church in 1856 and shared it with the Methodists.

Clinton had no school until about 1855 when Rev. and Mrs. James M. Connelly taught there. The Reverend preached twice a month for the Presbyterians. Later a Major Carruth taught a good school for a number of years. Due to a threatened invasion of Victoria by Union forces, Mrs. Viola Case moved her boarding school for girls to Clinton and conducted it there until the Civil War closed. Clinton's public school began in the 1870's; after the town's decline, it continued on as a small rural school until the 1950's.

Prominent doctors and lawyers practiced at Clinton in the early years: Doctors Lewis Williams, Aaron C. White, Andrew J. Hodge, and Joseph Weisiger. Lawyers Robert E. Williams, William Friend Sam C. Lackey, Sr., John W. Stayton, and Henry Clay Pleasants handled legal matters.

Clinton's first hotel was a small log house. Cooking was done outside and the dining tables were spread out-of-doors. Later Oliver Stapp built a two-story frame hotel. An early feature of interest was an oyster supper there; the oysters were brought from the coast in the shell, being the first fresh oysters served in the area.

Clinton's United States post office was established on October 9, 1849, being the county's second - Cuero post office had been established in 1846. The Clinton office was discontinued May 11, 1886.

Even before Clinton became the county seat in 1850, it was developing quite rapidly and during the next decade further progress was made. For several years W. O. Wheeler of Victoria maintained a branch store in the DeWitt County seat; he had a large volume of business for those pioneer days--sales amounted to \$12,000 in 1850 and \$18,000 in 1851. Numerous other stores, shops, saloons, and business projects prospered in this wide-awake and growing town. Social life was gay with frequent, congenial gatherings and entertainments.

Then came the Civil War! Many of the citizens, young boys as well as men, enlisted in the Confederate service. With the help of numerous slaves, the formerly prosperous industries of farming and stock-raising in the area surrounding Clinton were managed as successfully as conditions permitted.

Next came the Reconstruction years of military rule and government-appointed law-enforcement officers. These conditions engendered resentment, and lawlessness hindered the county's recovery. During the troubles and confusion of the tragic Reconstruction years, some Clinton residents moved away. When the railroad town of Cuero was established just across the river in 1873, a large part of both the population and the business interests of Clinton transferred to the railroad town. Clinton's final decline came in 1876 when the county seat was moved to Cuero. By the turn of the century, there was little evidence that a prosperous town had ever been located in the vicinity.

Even the large and well-filled cemetery cannot give its mute testimony unless the searchers climb and crawl through brush, brambles, and briars under which the unkept graves are hidden from view.

Concrete Upper Cuero Creek Settlement after 1840 served as the nucleus around which a village grew. James Norman Smith surveyed town blocks for that village, Concrete, in 1846; this task was performed under the auspices of Dr. Jackson Hodge, "Father of Concrete". The early adobe concrete used for construction accounts for the name of the settlement. Earliest residents of the settlement included the Davis, McCoy, Barton, North, Baker, and Hodge families.

The first merchant in Concrete was Josh B. Kindred. The earliest church (a log house) in Concrete and DeWitt County was erected by Cumberland Presbyterians in 1846. This first structure was later replaced by a two-story frame building which served Cumberland Presbyterians, Southern Presbyterians, and Methodists as a place of worship; the same building was used by Concrete Masonic Lodge and William D. Glass, an early teacher.

Methodists were active in Concrete until the late 1890's when their separate building was sold to Jim Merritt to be used as a store. Southern Presbyterians merged with the Cuero Presbyterian Church in 1883. Baptists were especially active in Concrete from 1865 to 1881 during which time Reverend John Van Epps Covey, pastor and Concrete College professor, tended to the spiritual needs of residents and college students; Baptists continued regular services in 1948.

For the first nine years of Concrete history no regular school was taught, but some short-term sessions were held, probably in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In 1855 Florida lumber was hauled from the port of Indianola in order to construct a two-room school house which when finished measured ninety by thirty feet. Reverend John Van Epps Covey and his wife taught the community school which was known as Covey Academy; Concrete College was administered by Rev. Covey after its initiation about 1866. The College was

discontinued after 1881 and no regular school was taught for several years. In 1887-1888 a Mr. Young and an assistant, Christina Clair Batchelor (salary \$30 per month), taught a session in the Methodist Church. Miss Batchelor, later Mrs. King, taught subsequently in the old college building.

The Concrete section was fortunate in having a number of good doctors in the early days. The first was probably Dr. Duck who arrived in the Cuero Creek Community about 1840. Doctors Hodge, W. W. White, Blackmore, J. E. King, O. D. Coppedge, and Finley Blackwell all served the Concrete community region at one time or another.

Concrete in 1870 was reported by S. F. Orman to have consisted of a post office (mail arrived twice daily by stage coach), seven stores, a combination shoe and blacksmith shop, a two-story hotel (owned by Isham North), a mule-driven gin, two church buildings (Cumberland Presbyterian and Baptist), a Masonic Lodge and a flourishing college.

Seventeen years later, in 1887, Mrs. James A. King (Christina "Tina" Clair Batchelor) recorded the decline of Concrete by noting the existence of two churches, no schools, only two stores, a post office and a blacksmith shop. Most of the residents had moved to the railroad town of Cuero. In 1894 Mr. King purchased the last remaining store and operated it until 1898.

In 1948 Concrete had a population of 100, a one-teacher school, a Baptist Church, two stores, one service station and a gin; the school was discontinued in 1950. Pupils are now transported to Cuero by school bus. Seventy-five persons were living in the community in 1960.

Crossenville The first settlers to occupy land on what became Crossenville were members of the J. M. Alexander family; they made their home on the Abednego Bidby Survey in 1850. Adams, Bowen, Rice, Crossen, Goldman, and Newman families had arrived by 1858. In that year George W. Crossen established a store which served the area until after the Civil War; the community was named for Mr. Crossen.

Beginning in 1859 and continuing for several years, Bill Edgar rode horseback eight miles from his house near Edgar to teach the Crossenville children who met in a log school house. This early structure was replaced in 1880 by a frame building. The Crossenville School was operated until 1925 when it was consolidated with the Stratton School three miles to the southeast.

In 1869 Joe and Fanny Newman planted an elm tree at their Crossenville home. It grew large and beautiful serving in July of

each year (1926-1935) as a meeting site for persons who assembled to hear Joe "Bud" Newman, a Primitive Baptist minister, deliver his historic messages of the "Elm Tree Meetings"; only the trunk and one limb of this tree survived by 1950. The land in this region was owned by George Morrow in 1950, but Crossenville exists only in memory.

Cuero Construction of the extension of the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad from Victoria to twelve miles within the bounds of DeWitt County was completed in December, 1872. In January, 1873, the company located its terminal townsite east of the Guadalupe on the land grant which was originally that of Jose Antonio Gonzales Valdez but early sold to Samuel Williams. The county's earliest post office, established May 22, 1846, and named Cuero for Cuero Creek, was moved from its original location in the Friar-Cardwell Store (a stage-stop) to become the post office of the railroad terminal.

Civil Engineer Gustav Schleicher superintended the surveyors Rudolph Kleberg, Thompson, and McBain in their work of laying out the townsite in streets, blocks, and lots and of marking out drainage ditches. According to Mrs. Otto Buchel, nee Olga Vahldieck, the first two families to arrive at the site were the Gustav Schleichers and the Theodore Vahldiecks. For many years prior to her death in 1952, Mrs. Buchel was Cuero's only living charter citizen.

Much lumber was hauled to the townsite in wagons drawn by oxen, horses, or mules. Even before the surveyors had completed their work, the railroad station and various homes and business houses were beginning to "mushroom up". J. R. Nagel moved his tin shop and hardware business from Clinton to the townsite; Otto Buchel established a store and private bank; H. Runge and Company of Indianola started a branch grocery and hardware business; Dr. J. M. Reuss and Sons, also of Indianola, began a branch drug store with Dr. August Reuss as proprietor and resident physician; photographer S. P. Fey set up for business; Rudolph Kleberg began publishing the weekly Cuero Star in June.

Cuero was incorporated April 23, 1873; city government was organized in the summer with O. L. Threlkeld as mayor. Passenger trains began running in early summer. The fare from Cuero to Indianola was \$4; to Victoria, \$2. An excursion train was run from Victoria to Cuero on July 4th. Professor David W. Nash opened a private school in September. Tom C. Smith (Presbyterian), Charles C. Howerton (Episcopalian), _____ Wade (Campbellite), and _____ Austin (Methodist) organized a Sunday school. By the close of 1873, Cuero was "off to a good start" as a DeWitt County railroad

town.

After the port city of Indianola was severely damaged by a Gulf hurricane in 1875, some of its families moved to Cuero. H. Runge and Company and also Reuss Drug Store moved their entire business stock and personnel - the Emil Reifferts, William Frobeses Edward Mugges, and the Dr. Joseph M. Reuss families. Some other who moved from Indianola to Cuero in 1875 were the Kleineckes, William Hasdorfs, David Heatons, William Wagner, and Richard C. Warns.

Names of those who became citizens of Cuero after Indianola was destroyed by the hurricane of 1886 include the Albert Rohres, George F. Willys, August Frankes, Mrs. Caroline Fuhrman, Mrs. Adolph Weisenberg, and Mrs. Cassie McClanahan.

The Cuero Star of April 20, 1879, reported a disastrous fire at Cuero. The estimated loss was \$30,000. Louis Kleinecke's saloon and L. Alexander's dry goods store were completely destroyed. Others who suffered losses were the following: R. C. Warn, Hardware; George Wallingford, jeweler; J. R. Whiteton, crockery; H. Nitsche, barber shop; J. D. Walker, watchmaker; E. Marie, barber shop; Mrs. Mary Wilson, milliner; F. A. Hake, saddlery; J. Muti, confectionery; William Hasdorf, rent buildings.

Cuero church organization began in 1874 with the Episcopalians in the lead. Bishop Alex Gregg preached the initial sermon in McCulloch Hall where the congregation worshiped until they built a church in 1875. Rev. F. R. Starr became regular pastor; Miss Mamie Friend was organist; Addie Smith, daughter of George and Rebecca Smith, was the first baby baptized.

Catholics organized and erected their church building in 1876; Father W. L. Nanci was their first pastor. Catholics began a parochial school in connection with their church soon after its organization. This has been maintained through the years. In 1950 they erected a very modern and well-equipped educational building.

The Methodists organized in 1876 and held services in a Union church building until they built their church in 1884. The Baptists were organized in 1877 by Dr. Frank Kiefer, a missionary. Three of their six charter members were Will Thomas, Ella Burns, and Julia Burns. Rev. John Van Epps Covey was their first pastor. They worshiped in the Union Church until they erected their own building in 1885. Presbyterians effected an organization with eighteen charter members in 1878. They held services in the Episcopal Church until they put up their frame building in 1883. Lutherans had services as early as 1880; they became more definitely organized in 1886 when several additional members came to Cuero after Indianola was destroyed. In later years Assembly of God and Church

of Christ congregations became active at Cuero. All these churches continue (1961); each has a modern church building, a resident pastor, and regular Sabbath services and Sunday School.

The private school that Professor David W. Nash began in 1873 grew in importance and developed into Guadalupe Academy. It was co-educational, and many students received excellent instruction there. It was closed about 1900.

Cuero's first public school started in September, 1892, in the John C. French two-story building with Prof. Tom Colston as superintendent. Through the years Cuero schools have been enlarged and improved to meet increased enrollment and successive requirements of curricula, faculty, buildings, and equipment. They have continuously ranked well among the schools of the surrounding area and of the state.

Cuero's earliest institution for the care of the sick was the two-story Salome Hospital which was built by the Cuero Hospital Association and received a state charter in February, 1893. Its first Chief of Staff was Dr. Joe H. Reuss. Associated with him were Doctors Joe M. Reuss, Daniel B. Blake, and Joe Lackey. Miss Justine Koehler was graduated from the Nurses' Training School conducted there. Beginning in 1904, Dr. Fred Kirkham managed the Salome Hospital for several years. Dr. John W. Burns cared for patients there until he completed his hospital.

A four-story brick building was finished in 1911, and Dr. John W. Burns named it Burns Hospital in honor of his father, Columbus Burns. Through the years it has been maintained as a well-equipped and high-ranking hospital. Dr. John Burns was surgeon and physician there until his death in 1939. Then Dr. John Gillett Burns, who had been associated with his father for a number of years, carried on until his health failed in 1958. Since then Dr. Harold High has been Chief of Staff with Dr. John Davis and Dr. L. B. Landry as Associates.

Burns Hospital conducted a graduate-nurses training school (1916-1930); there were eight graduates in the class of 1928; all successfully passed the state-board examination and received R. N. degrees. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word bought the hospital in 1934 and have maintained and managed it since that date.

Dr. Joe H. Reuss erected a three-story brick building in 1914 and named it Reuss Hospital as a memorial to his father, Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss. Dr. Joe managed it until his death in 1919. Since that date it has continued as a well-equipped and well-staffed hospital under several different names - Boothe, Lutheran, Bohman Hospital. Its present (1961) name is Cuero Hospital Foundation, with Doctors A. J. Bohman, O. E. Hall, F. A. Prather, L. B. Landry, T. A. Reuss as surgeons and physicians. Dr. A. J. Bohman maintains his modern clinic nearby. Specialists from San Antonio and Victoria make scheduled visits to give advice and aid.

The Stratton Hospital is owned and operated by Dr. Carl R. Stratton and sons, Dr. Richard L. and James A. Stratton (medical technologist). It has offered osteopathic service since its establishment in 1952. It is equipped with an operating and treatment rooms for medical patients.

The Towery Chiropractic Clinic has been (1961) a family institution at Cuero for 30 years. It was established by Dr. William R. and Ann Towery who managed it until the son Dr. Glen Towery assumed its management in 1958. The clinic has five treatment rooms and an X-ray room. Among its equipment is a Ton Traction table, one of the newest aids for relieving ruptured and compressed discs.

Dr. Lena M. Hoffman has maintained an office practice as a Chiropractor at Cuero from June, 1927, to the present (1961). Dr. Ann Morgan, optometrist, maintains a successful practice. Earlier day oculists were Doctors Walter W. Sale, Marvin Duckworth, and W. E. Douthit. Doctors W. R. Rathbone, Fred Buchel, and _____ Miller were dentists; Doctors Wm. S. Grunder, John F. Wheeler and F. W. Windel are Cuero's dentists in 1961.

James C. Howerton began publishing the Cuero Record as a daily paper in November, 1894; he continued as editor until his death in 1935. Then his son Jack Howerton became editor and continues the work to the present (1961). The Cuero Record has never missed a scheduled publication.

For a time Cuero had three banks. Buchel Bank was established in 1873; became a National Bank in 1907; remodeled and enlarged its building in 1961. H. Runge and Company Bank was moved from Indianola in 1875 and was maintained at Cuero until 1932. First State Bank and Trust Company started their bank in 1906; they reorganized as The Farmers State Bank and Trust Company in 1926. Farmers State Bank has a new building under construction in 1962.

Two Cuero industries have been financially successful for more than a half-century. Cuero Cotton Oil Manufacturing Co., started by Alex Hamilton, continues under Hamilton management. It produces cotton oil, hulls, cake, and meal from cotton seed. Its products are in great demand, even nationally. Guadalupe Valley Cotton Mill produces high-grade cotton duck. In 1961 it had 340 employees with a weekly payroll of about \$20,000.

Other Cuero industries that continue in 1961 include Coca--Cola Bottling Co. (1910), Crescent Valley Creamery (1925), Seven-Up Bottling Co. (1937), Lewis Tile Works (1946), Commercial Milling Co. (produces quality feed products), Cuero Produce Co. (the plant capacity 50,000 ice-dressed fryers per week), Cuero Turkey Hatchery (Miller Manford hatched 260,000 poults in 1961). Mrs. Annie Calhoun Brightwell operated a hatchery during the years 1927-1943;

its peak capacity was 30,000 eggs (chicken and turkey). Cudahy and Wyatt Hatcheries prospered for awhile.

Willis Barfield conducted his Cuero Livestock Commission Company auction sales each Friday during the years 1938-1954. Then he sold the enterprise to Claude and Finley Blackwell and John Huth for \$100,000. Cuero Livestock Auction sales amounted to \$7,500,000 in the year of 1961.

Garrett Abstract business was established by W. R. Garrett in 1894; after his death in 1938, his son-in-law Ira Wilkes continued the business until his death in 1961. It was then sold to Miller and Burns.

Addicks Building and Supply Co., Alamo Lumber, Hadameke Lumber, R. L. Wagner Lumber, Leslie Weaver and Natham Past (Contractors) are kept continuously busy filling building contracts. Building permits at Cuero totaled more than a million dollars in 1961. Newmans of Cuero, Inc. maintain a lumber yard and carry all types of plumbing fixtures. They specialize in building speculative homes (built 12 in 1960) and in installing plumbing and built-in fixtures - cooking-ovens, cook-tops, cabinets, etc.

Cuero's latest industry is unique. Clete Ernster's Gulf Coast Kitchens and Manufacturing Co. began business in 1957. They produce "fine-finished fixtures and mill work for schools, colleges, hospitals, and the like". The plant has 36 employees with an annual payroll of \$135,000. It employs local workers and, where possible, buys material and equipment at Cuero.

By 1961, Gulf Coast Kitchens had shipped finished products to Texas A&M College, Sam Houston College at Huntsville, Texas Womens' University at Denton, and Texas Southern University at Houston. The plant was booked practically to capacity for work eight months for institutions in various parts of Texas.

Reuss Drug Store has served Cueroites continuously since the founding date of 1873, in the same location, and with a Reuss as proprietor. Several early drug stores have been discontinued: Heaton Brothers, Duggan's, Booton and Kunitz. This last one continued as Kunitz Drug Store until the death of Ed O. Kunitz in 1957. L. L. Buttery, Ph. g. (successor of Heaton Brothers), Klecka Drug, and Center Pharmacy compete with Reuss Drug in 1961.

Many Cuero firms, successful for years, had been discontinued by the 1940's:

Hardware: J. R. Nagel and Sons; H. Runge and Company; Richard C. Warn; Hutchings and Bates; Bates; Newmans of Cuero Hardware (was closed about 1950)

Saddlers: John Stratton; R. C. Flick

Dry Goods and Clothing: Alex Hamilton; Frank Taylor; John and Tom

Graves; Mistrot Brothers; Bass Brothers; A. F. and Gus Dietze; Le Vand (in the 1950's)

Confectionery: Carl Wagner; Brownie Phillips

Jewellers: W. A. Bickford; L. A. Carter

Business firms that continue in 1961:

Wagner Hardware and Machinery Co. (successor to Bates Hardware); Charlie Gay Implement and Motor Co.; Western Auto and Supply; Stowers Furniture; Arthur Means Furniture and Mattress Co.; Massey Furniture and Mattress Co.; Koehlers, Inc. - Dry Goods and Clothing, "House of Quality since 1890"; J. C. Penny Co. (1928); The Fair - Jake Cohn proprietor (1934); Smart Shop (ready-to-wear) (1929); V-Anne's Chic Shoppe (ready-to-wear); Bass Shoe Store (1935); Bohne's Boot Shop; McClung Grocery and Market (1916); Green Garden Grocery; Cuero Foodcraft (successor to Ley Grocery); H. E. B. Super Market (1960); Boysen's Super Market (1961); McAllister Sweet Shop; Keesler's Confectionery; Cozy Nook; Hensley's Rialto Confectionery; Callander's Gift Shop (1950); Cuero Gift and Toy Shop; Ferguson's 5-10-25 Cent Store; Perry Brothers, Inc., Variety Store; Carl Wagner Jewelry; Murray Carte Jewelry; Laake Flower Shop; Ryan's Flower Shop; Weber Motor Co. (1937); Smith and Duckett (1940); Harrison Motor Co.

Freund Funeral Home is ultra-modern and well-equipped; Mrs. Josie B. Freund (former owner), Chester A. Buenning and Roy Wilson assist J. D. Bramlette, Jr. in providing efficient and sympathetic service.

Efficient officials have managed Cuero's government through the years. Terry Newman holds the record for length of service as mayor. Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and Kiwanis organizations have been helpful. The Hawthorne, Music Lovers, and Garden Clubs have accomplished much that is worth-while. Orchestras and bands have provided musical entertainment. The Prause Orchestra continued in 1961.

It seems worthy of notice that three men gave faithful service on one block of Cuero's Main Street for almost a half century: Dr. Louis Kleinecke was dentist (1905-1951); Mr. Jim Dolejsi was barber (1905-1954); Mr. Henry Bohne was barber (1911-1959). Also Dr. W. A. McLeod made a rather outstanding record in being Cuero Presbyterian pastor for 28 years (1919-1947).

Cuero barbers in 1961 are Ben Prause, Burgess Davis, and Ezra Frisbe.

Cuero's first Turkey Trot was held in 1912. It was then that about 8,000 turkeys "gobbled and trotted" Cuero into national fame as

"Turkey Capitol." The twelfth Turkey Trot was staged in 1960.

This celebration begins with the elaborate coronation ceremonies for the Sultan and Sultana, followed by the Coronation Ball. The next day there is a colorful and spectacular parade in which numerous decorated floats, school and civic bands, and thousands of turkeys participate. The Royalty and members of the court ride on floats. Drivers walk along to keep the turkeys "in line and on the trot" to amuse the thousands of spectators who are watching the parade.

The 1960 census credits Cuero with a population of 7,338.

Davy is located in northwestern DeWitt County near the Karnes County border on the Elijah Dale and B. David Survey. On June 1, 1885, Fred House conveyed two acres of land on the east side of Salt Creek to trustees William Burt, W. A. Smoley, and J. T. Holdermann for school and church purposes.

A graveyard had already been established near by. The school is on the Davy-Yorktown highway about a mile and a half from the business section of the village which in 1948 had two stores, a blacksmith shop, and a service station. A post office was maintained at Davy from December 3, 1895, until the late 1930's. The 1960 population was 175.

Edgar The James Edgar family settled on a land grant in eastern DeWitt County in 1853. This land had been granted to the son Joseph Edgar for services he rendered in the Texas Revolution. Soon a farming community developed. Other early settlers were the James Brown, Clayton, Bachelor, Parker, Ben Milligan, Barth, Boothe, and Stell families. In the 1880's Joe Covey and J. W. Cook taught the Grassbur school which served the community.

In 1887 the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad located a station midway between Cuero and Yoakum, designating it Edgar for the first settlers. The people of Grassbur Community were glad to merge with the railroad townsite. For many years Edgar had telegraph and express offices, post office, two stores, a gin, a Cumberland Presbyterian and a Baptist Church. A school was begun in 1888; early teachers were Fanny Powell and Belle Wallace. The only church services by 1948 were held in the Negro Baptist Church, Mt. Zion. The business houses were a grocery store and a chicken hatchery.

Gruenau The area comprising the present Gruenau community was open prairie when Vachel Weldon, Sr. acquired it from the Indianola Railroad Co. after plans to build a Railroad along the old Indianola trail were abandoned.

Mr. Weldon opened the land for settlement in 1890. As early as

1872 David Stanchos, then residing at Yorktown, owned a large tract of land reaching into the Gruenau vicinity, and it was the Stanchos family which can be considered the first family that settled on the Gruenau prairie.

Other early settlers were the families of Ernst Haertig, Dietrich Jansen, Henry Mueller, and Ernst Kimmel who located about 1890. These were followed by the brothers Henry and Anton Koopmann in 1893 and 1894 respectively. Later the entire Koopmann family settled on the present homestead of William Koopmann. In 1896, the Heinrich Straube and in 1897, the Brandt and Warmuth families settled in the area. The boys of these various families organized the present Turnverein; young men of the Pundt, Buesing, and Remmers families who moved in later were also active.

About 1897 athletic practice began at the Brandt farm continuing until May, 1898; this section was finally organized as Little Chicago. Little Chicago was at that time the center of a community with a store owned by George Langley; a school was also established. Gruenau was at this early date an open prairie with almost no trees or shrubs but an abundance of grass; for many years this native grass was used for hay. The abundance of grass explains the designation, Gruenau, meaning green meadow or prairie. Gruenau was also a location in the province of Oldenburg, Germany, where most of the families originated.

The first members of the community athletic organization were John, George, and Adolph Brandt; Anton, John, and Willie Koopmann; John Pundt; Arthur Haertig; Henry Buesing; Henry Remmers. The first scholars were Gerhardt Brandt, Haertig, George and Louis Straube; Adolph, August, Charles and Louis Mueller; Anton and John Schmidt; and Joe Boac. The apparatus for the physical training was hauled down from Shiner, Texas, and the practice lasted until about 1910 when many of the families moved farther west. Beside the athletic activities there was also a brass band (since early in the 1890's).

Farming consisted mostly of raising cotton and just enough corn and other feed to keep the work stock and a few cows, hogs, and chickens. In 1900 the first Club Hall was built at the present site and after its completion dances were given with the old Yorktown Dance Orchestra playing regularly. Rifle teams were formed soon after the hall was built and contests with neighboring communities became major events. Those contests were usually held in the forenoon followed by a dinner after which the winner of the contest would be announced as Schuetzen-Koenig (King of the Riflemen), and his wife or the girl of his choice would be crowned as Queen. A grand parade by the brass band, the Royal Pair, and all the local and visiting members followed. The affair ended with a dance at night.

Athletic activity died out when many of the leading figures migrated to other parts of the state. Not until 1924 was it resumed under the initiative of Edo Hoepken, a new arrival from the old country. Once again the apparatus was maintained, this time until the outbreak of war in 1941. Many of the settlers served in the Army and Navy during World War II, and three failed to return. In 1927 the first Turn & Schuetzen Verein building was torn down and the present spacious hall was built. Many additions and conveniences have been added subsequently.

Agriculture has changed much; general farming was long practiced and in later years much land has been under flax. In line with other rural areas, scholastic population has diminished to such an extent that consolidation of schools is inevitable. Social and educational endeavors as well as entertainment and physical training have consistently been promoted.

The Gruenau Hall is the home of several social, agricultural, and fraternal organizations all of which have regular meetings. Several of the organizations are as follows: Gruenau Turn & Schuetzen Verein, Brother Lodge of the Herman Sons, Sister Lodge of the same, Home Demonstration Club, and the Gruenau Farm Bureau.

Hebron is a church and school community fourteen miles southeast of Yoakum on land of the Charles P. Delmas Survey. Earliest settlers included the Moses Granberry, J. B. Holland, Adam Shows, W. P. Carroll, Dr. Carroll, A. P. Hill, John Goode, Joe Byars, and Dave McManus families.

A missionary Baptist church was organized in the farming and ranch center in March, 1855; Hebron was chosen as a name and Rev. Wade Holland selected pastor. He served until his death in 1869. Church records from 1855 to 1948 were kept and are still available in 1962.

The community's first school was organized about 1856; the school building doubled as a religious meeting place for perhaps a year. This Hebron school was in operation as late as 1888 when it merged with near-by Bear Creek School. During its last years the school at Hebron was taught in the church.

On November 30, 1869, Amos Granberry and John G. Hargrove granted to Deacons Amos Hill and L. Bisset of Hebron Baptist Church a two acre plot on which the church was located and stands today; an additional acre was donated in May, 1890, by W. P. Carroll. The church was later remodeled. In 1948 services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month.

Near the church is a well kept cemetery with many graves and numbers of beautiful headstones. The first grave is that of Nancy Shows, thirty-nine year old wife of Adam Shows, who died April

29, 1867; the body was transported to Hebron Cemetery by ox-cart.

On the first Sunday of May each year the people of the community and scores of ex-citizens from all parts of Texas and other states as well gather at Hebron to attend the church service, to visit the cemetery and decorate the graves, to exchange experiences, and to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Hochheim Valentine Hoch, founder of Hochheim, was a native of Alsace-Lorraine who contracted for a DeWitt County home site before emigrating to the new world. Soon after concluding the purchase with a land agent in his home land, Hoch prepared his family for the journey; clothing, household utensils, and the necessary staple foods and tools were accumulated.

Tragedy struck the family before the Hochs departed from Europe; the youngest child died only a few days before disembarkation. Valentine, his wife, and three remaining children, August, Fredricka, and Minda sailed from a German port to Indianola Texas. Mother Hoch died on arrival and was buried at Indianola in a wooden casket constructed by her husband.

The three children and Valentine Hoch arrived later at the present site of Hochheim where, after several years of hard work, a stone house was built. Hoch's profession as a stone mason served him well; carrying stone from the Guadalupe River banks and sifting ashes for lime a small two and one half story house was finally completed in 1856. This original Hoch home was shared later by Mrs. Flemmin Valentine's second wife, and her three daughters.

After the Hochs, other families including the Crawfords, Helms, Steens, Humphreys, Morrisises, and Schwabs arrived. Hochheim, known also as Dutchtown, developed as a trade center with a regular stage line running south to Indianola and north to Austin. In 1864 a German Methodist Church was built; it served also as a school house until 1875. A post office was established in 1869, and the residents patronized two grocery stores, a drug store, and a blacksmith shop.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church established at Upper Cuero Creek Settlement was relocated at Hochheim in 1882 where a new building was constructed in 1924. This church celebrated its centennial year in June, 1941, and continues active work in 1961. A Baptist church was established after 1923. In 1948 the community had a population of 100; there was a public school, a post office, a gin, two stores, and two service stations.

Remaining still as a memorial to Valentine Hoch is the old stone home completed in 1856. It stands on the Hochheim-Cuero road about a mile from the Guadalupe River. Though damaged by a storm in 1934 an inscription carved over the front entrance attests

to the courage of an early Texan: "V. Hoch -1856."

Hochheim Prairie Six miles west of Yoakum is Hochheim Prairie, named for an early settler from Hochheim. The first community school was established in a frame building in 1893; Minnie Rieder was the teacher. A larger building was constructed in 1897; Minnie Rieder and Eddie Coppedge taught in this two-room structure. A two-room stucco building replaced the latter schoolhouse in 1925. The largest number of students enrolled at any one time was 125.

St. Ann's Catholic Church was organized in 1906; Jacob Poth donated a tract of land and, along with John Weigelt, led in the church's establishment. In 1948 there were 88 families of worshipers. A Turnverein building was erected in 1892; since 1897 it has been known as Turner Dance Hall. In 1896 George Von Haven and William Eschenburg assisted in organizing the Hochheim Prairie Mutual Fire Insurance Company; the company was located at Yoakum after 1948.

Irish Creek Settlement (Burns Station, Verhelle) In September, 1826, Empresario Green DeWitt's colonist Arthur Burns his wife, grown son, and three daughters occupied their two-story log home near the east bank of the Guadalupe River, south of Irish Creek. This was the first home built within the present bounds of DeWitt County; it was later designated as a refuge during Indian raids and was visited by General Sam Houston in 1836.

Arthur Burns operated the county's earliest water-powered grist mill at Irish Creek; after the death of Burns in 1856, Moses Rankin operated this mill until it was destroyed by flood in 1869. Then for a number of years Rankin maintained a grist mill run by a Dutch windmill.

The settlement's first church was erected in 1853. The Victoria-Gonzales stage passed through and changed horses at Irish Creek. Early general merchandise stores were operated by Messrs. Sherman and Thomas; a Mr. Warn owned the hardware store and Charlie White was blacksmith.

By 1870 the population was 150 and mail was received at the post office (first established in 1851) by Sam Myers, post office master. In 1872 the Gulf West Texas and Pacific railroad located its second DeWitt County railroad town, named Burns Station for Arthur Burns and his son Columbus, the first white child born in the area.

Many notable names of DeWitt County can be found among the original inhabitants of Irish Creek; the Arthur Burns group (1826), Josiah and Hephzibeth Taylor family (1829), Patrick Dowlearn (1829), John W. Morrison (1849), Rev. Thomas and Ardelia Burns Cook

(1850), Columbus and Mary Ann de Moss Burns (1850), James Irvin and Eliza Cottingham (1852), William H. Kirkland (1854), T. B. Womack (1858), Moses Rankin (1858), John Keith and Mary Butler Rankin (1859), Samuel and Mary Rankin Myers (1859), William J. and Susan Friar Weisiger (1860), Evan S. and Gabriella Cook Weisiger (1865), William Thomas (1865), C. M. Shermans (1865), B. F. Lowes (1865), William "Bill" and Laura McDonald Sutton (1869), Aaron and Laura Myers Neal (1870).

Burns Station Naturally the change from a pioneer settlement to a railroad town brought differences in living conditions. Many of the Irish Creek settlers continued as useful citizens of Burns Station. Arthur and Sarah Burns had been removed by death. The Morrisons, Kirklands, and Weisigers moved away. Some new families who moved to Burns Station during 1872 and later were Dr. C. B. and Fanny Atkinson Phillips and son, Thomas and Mary Bates, Jack and Mollie McDonald Bell, Mrs. Cynthia Shults (Sutton) McDonald, and John and Ardelia Burns Shanks.

For a time the town's business interests continued, but lessened rather than improved. The surrounding farms were fairly prosperous. For a decade the Burns Station church, social, and school activities were carried on successfully and with beneficial results to the surrounding area. By 1882 the rapid growth of Cuero to the north and Thomaston to the south had brought disastrous effects to the midway town of Burns Station. By 1892 only memories and the well-filled graveyard remained.

Verhelle About 1902 the railroad switch, located at the site of the former Burns Station depot, was given the name Verhelle for a railroad official. Many citizens regretted that the name Burns, commemorative of the county's earliest settlers, was replaced by the name Verhelle, for a man who had never lived in the area.

Julia Pens In 1887 stock pens were built a mile and a quarter south of Thomaston and a quarter of a mile across the DeWitt County boundary line in Victoria County. These inclosures were located on the west side of the railroad track and given the name Julia Pens for Julia Rose Anderson, who formerly owned the land. Julia Rose Anderson, daughter of Victor Rose, inherited this land from her father.

These pens were used for loading cattle for shipment by stockmen in DeWitt and Victoria Counties; thousands of cattle were billed out by Thomaston railroad-agents directly from Julia Pens to various markets of the United States.

After movement of cattle by trucks came into general use about

1930, the pens were seldom used; they were torn down after 1945 and the material moved away to be used for other purposes.

Lateiner or Five-Mile Community Because of their academic training, cultural attainments, and professional standing, the early farmers of the Five-Mile Community represent the most unique of early Texas immigrants. After the German revolutions of the 1840's many intellectual refugees migrated to the Five-Mile Colecto and other regions in Texas. These scholars and professionals very likely heard of the opportunities in Texas from Frederick Ernst (founder of Industry, Texas) and Robert Kleberg (whose old Five-Mile home site was recognized by the State of Texas in 1936 with a marker) who wrote letters to their countrymen. The daughter of Frederick Ernst, Caroline, married first a Hinueber and then a Von Roeder and lived where the William Buehrig home now (1960) stands.

Among the earliest settlers of Five-Mile were Gus and Herman Holzapfel, Carl Schlueter, and Hy Hildebrand (arrived at Galveston, December 5, 1849); Edward Holzapfel (arrived with wife and newly born son at Indianola in 1852), and Frederick Grothaus (with his wife and six children) followed. In 1852 Charles Lang, Carl and Gus Schrade, and Julius Schorre arrived. Hinuebers, Von Roeders, Brandts, Richters, Trautweins, Rabkes, and Pflugs also took up land at an early date. The Lateiner settlers bought land in the George W. Brooks Survey and their old homesteads are today, for the most part, still owned by descendants.

None of these settlers were experienced farmers, but were educated as teachers, lawyers, engineers, chemists, etc. Robert Kleberg was a lawyer; Gus Holzapfel instructed in an agricultural college; Edward Holzapfel was an editor and naturalist (his collection of mounted birds is represented in the Cuero High School and Victoria College Science departments); Carl Schlueter was a teacher; Carl Schrade was a chemist and sold beef extract; George Brandt was also a chemist and contributed to the eradication of tick fever; J. H. Richter served as DeWitt County Treasurer and was proprietor of a store at Clinton; Adolph Rabke was a carpenter; John Pflug was the teacher of the community's first public school.

In addition to their personal interests and necessary farming chores the Five-Mile settlers organized Sunday afternoon socials, a "whist" club and a singing society. Freighting to and from San Antonio and Indianola occupied several of the pioneers, and Charles Lang hauled silver from Indianola to Austin.

The first instruction to the children of the Lateiner Settlement was conducted in the home of Mrs. Oattie Plaeger. A school was built later on land donated by Gus Holzapfel and others. Carl

Schlueter was the first to teach in the new building; Messrs. Fuchs, Baston, Kleberg, and Hartman taught until, in 1871, the school ceased to be private. The school was moved to a site half-way between the Winkler (Broden) home and Five-Mile Coletto. In 1872 John Pflug took up teaching in the first public school; he received "script" and one dollar a month per child. Other teachers were E. Holzapfel, Sophie Schorlemmer, Kate Wallace, Delia Wright, Mamie Schaefer, Frieda Pflug, Lula Evans, Mary Nolan, Lina Koeler (received \$27 per month in 1902), Mary Coats, Meta Eberhard, Kate Thomas, Martha Gertsman, Ella Leist, Tom Palmie, Alfreda Hardt, Edna Carrell, Dora Leinhard, Lloyd Petrick, Emma Peper, Mary Jones, and Mrs. Mary Cook. The school was moved a third time to a location on the Gus Holzapfel farm near the public road and about fifty yards from the south bank of the creek. In 1921 the school was relocated for the last time on the Ratcliffe Ranch on the Clinton-Weesatch Road. Though old timers insisted on Five-Mile it was known thereafter as Ratcliffe School; it was discontinued about 1950.

Prior to 1910 a Woodmen of the World Lodge was organized and a lodge hall built near the 1921 school house site; the lodge hall served as a community center for singing, dancing, and debate. Salutes were offered by Gus Pflug from time to time to commemorate the contributions, persons, and places of local interest.

The range industry, two dairies, turkey, and general farming have served as the economic base for the growth of the community. Telephones were installed in 1907, rural mail began to arrive in the same year, and by 1941 electrical service was installed; the same year saw the completion of the Cuero-Goliad highway through the community.

Lindenau In 1891 a group of German farm families donated money to start a school in central DeWitt County west of the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Sandies Creek. Because it was located on the John T. Wofford Ranch, the school was designated the Wofford School. In 1893 at a sausage supper given as a school benefit, a visiting entertainer sang the German song "Lindenau"; at her suggestion this name was then given to the school. In 1895 a community store and post office were built. Mail was brought from Cuero by carrier in a mule-drawn spring wagon each Tuesday and Saturday.

When the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended from Cuero the site of Lindenau was relocated the distance of a mile or so in order to take advantage of the rail connection; the school remained in its original location. A post office was maintained from 1920-1948; soon the village had another store and a gin. A Lutheran Church was built in 1912 and a modern three-room school house replaced

the old one-room building in 1930; nearby Guilford School consolidated with it in 1942. A two-teacher school continued in 1948 to serve the families of Lindenau village and surrounding farms. The school was discontinued in the 1950's. Sixty persons were living in the Lindenau community in 1960.

Little Chicago About 1890 a German farm community was located in northwestern DeWitt County seven miles north of Yorktown. George Langley built a store to serve the community and decided to call the site Little Chicago, which became closely associated with the settlement of Gruenau. Little Chicago was known as a center of athletic activity so common to the Texas German communities.

Little Milwaukee About 1925 Herman Gruenewald opened a dance hall at a location approximately one mile south of Yorktown on the Goliad Highway. The site was known for some time as Little Milwaukee, but has since been abandoned.

Little St. Louis Fred Geffert lived in a community a mile north of Yorktown on the Davy Highway; there he opened a dance hall which came to be called Little St. Louis. The amusement hall has been discontinued, but the community boasts a roadside grocery store and a service station.

Meyersville is a DeWitt County German settlement, located thirteen miles southwest of Cuero. Adolph Meyer and his sister arrived on Coletto Creek in May, 1846; Fritz Hausman and wife came soon thereafter. The settlement was named in 1847 for Meyer. Early settlers built their homes of logs covered with the tall grass that grew in the locality. By 1850 there were 20 families, and in 1851 a log house was erected which served both as a Lutheran church and a school house. The early day pastors taught and preached for \$40 a month. A post office was authorized in December, 1851.

Early-day business establishments at Meyersville were the Mangold Store, Fred Drier Grocery (operated later by Gottlieb Hausman), the Mahr Mattress Factory, Buehrig Saddlery, Carl Hartman gin, and later two gins of Gottlieb Hausman. The Hartman and the first Hausman gins were horse-powered and turned out about two bales of cotton per day. Hausman's second gin was powered by steam.

In 1866 Lutherans built a sandstone church and named it St. John's; it was the first stone church in DeWitt County. This building has been used as a church recreation center since 1921 when a more modern main church was erected. The St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Church was a frame building erected in 1859; a larger one, built in 1880, was partly destroyed by the hurricane of 1886, but was soon restored. In 1939 a building of re-enforced concrete with

outer walls of white-stucco was erected. At this time the church served 75 families. It continues (1961) to maintain its resident pastor and to have regular services. For a number of years prior to 1899 Sts. Peter and Paul Church had a parochial school taught by two German and one Polish-speaking Catholic Nuns.

Meyersville public school, started in 1899, was small at first but grew rapidly. Through the years it has ranked high among De Witt County's rural schools. In 1924 a two-room building with a stage was erected. From then until the 1950's a two-teacher, 9-grade school was maintained. The pupils prided themselves on excellent handwriting and harmony-singing. The school was provided with a 20-acre playground covered with large oaks. An athletic club, literary society, and Mother's Club supplemented the academic work. In 1961, only three DeWitt County rural schools are being maintained Westhoff, Meyersville, and Green DeWitt-Arneckeville.

Meyersville reached its peak of business enterprise about 1923. Cotton, cottonseed, turkeys, cattle, hogs, chickens, butter and cream were shipped out in large quantities. Turkeys had been raised in considerable numbers for some years. In 1912 the I. Egg Sons general merchandise and produce establishment purchased a number of turkeys (8,000) and drove them to the town of Cuero for the first Turkey Trot Parade. For home consumption much corn, small grain, sudan grass, peanuts, and vegetables were produced. The Albert Egg gin served an area of about 16 miles radius around Meyersville. In the 1923 season 1900 bales of cotton were processed. The Egg and Semler general merchandise stores were busy, prosperous trade marts with four trucks hauling produce to surrounding markets. The Egg establishment contained the post office and a tin shop. Carl Hartman kept a drug store with Dr. Voelgyi as resident physician. At that time there was an up-to-date dry goods store, a blacksmith shop, and a garage.

By 1948 cotton had ceased to be a mainstay. The six gins that had at different times operated in the Meyersville section were all silent. Those establishments which remained were the I. Egg Sons general merchandise store, a post office, a grocery, blacksmith shop, garage, and entertainment parlor. Latest census returns show Meyersville's population as 150.

Mustang Mott When the traveler reaches the midway point between Cuero and Westhoff, along Highway 87, he sees a short distance to the west a clump of live oak trees. "Oldtimers" maintain that in pioneer years this was a very large mott of young live oaks located in an extensive unfenced prairie section and that large droves of wild horses sought its protection from the heat of summer and the cold of winter. Many early DeWitt County settlers caught mustang

ponies in this region and tamed them to use as saddle horses.

Nopal is located on the Francisco Gonzales Survey in northwestern DeWitt County near the Gonzales County border and several miles northeast of Yorktown. In 1890 Emil Sasse opened a grocery there; after a time he sold the establishment to a Mr. Kasper. Charlie Chick opened a second store later, and in 1900 George Hottenbach arrived from Shiner to establish a gin. Fritz F. Schwab began selling drugs about the same time. Joe Schubert was the community blacksmith.

About 1902 the Nopal Post Office was moved to Sasseville from the Teas Community on the Sandies in Gonzales County. The name Sasseville was discontinued and the new designation was Nopal.

The children of Sasseville had attended Sandgate School about two miles distant (toward Yorktown). In 1902 the Nopal Public School was begun and continued until it united with nearby Clear Creek School in 1925.

Nordheim is a western DeWitt County town seven miles west of Yorktown and three miles east of Karnes County boundary. Its site was established in 1895 as Weldon Switch, the name of a siding previously built on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad. By 1897 the village had a post office (established January 23, 1896), a gin, two stores, and a school with 23 pupils. In 1898 William Froese led a movement to change the name to Nordheim which was the name of his boyhood home in Germany.

In 1948 Nordheim had a German population of 480, twenty-two business establishments, a weekly paper, waterworks, electric power, Jubilee Park, a shooting club, a Catholic and a Lutheran Church, and an independent school system. In 1947 the Taylor Ranch School District, located in the near-by oil field area, consolidated with Nordheim, and the rural pupils were then transported by school bus to Nordheim. In 1948 the town issued bonds for a large school building and gymnasium. At the oil field, two miles to the southwest, a re-cycling plant was under construction in 1948 for the purpose of piping liquid products to railroad cars on sidings at Nordheim for shipment to various markets. There were about 407 persons living in Nordheim in 1960.

Pearl City is located to the east and just across the road from Hochheim Prairie School. One store, built in 1935 by Walter Hagen and operated in 1948 by his two sons, Moeller's blacksmith shop, Coldeweg's garage, and two residences make up the village.

Pens When the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was constructed through Cuero in 1887, a switch was located between Cuero and the south of the rail crossing over the Guadalupe River about two miles to the west. Since it was to be used for spotting cars in which cattle were loaded for shipping, pens were built in the area. No cattle have been shipped by rail from this point for many years and the pens have long since been removed but the switch remained in 1948.

Petersville began in 1932 when Frank Peters built a store on the highway four miles west of Yoakum. In earlier years there was a National Dance Hall in this locality. Since 1945 the building and its acre of land have belonged to near-by St. Anne's Church and is used by that congregation as a recreation center, especially for their picnics. In 1948 there were two prosperous grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, and a garage at Petersville.

Pierpont Place In the DeWitt County deed records is a land transfer dated February, 1855, in which Richard Chisholm speaks of the area where the Five Mile Coleta flows into Twelve Mile Coleta in southern DeWitt County as a certain tract of land called "Pierpont Place". Prior to that date William and Elizabeth lived in a log house near the confluence of these creeks. In the 1840's they kept stables (where the stage coach from San Antonio to Indianola changed horses) and also maintained the Pierpont Place Post Office, established March 21, 1852. Robert Kleberg very likely influenced the establishment of the Pierpont Place Post Office to serve the Lateiner Settlement; it was located but a short distance from his home. E. J. Rangnow later owned the Pierpont Place land.

Rabke A group of German families, including five by the name of Rabke, settled in southwestern DeWitt County nine miles southeast of Yorktown and ten miles southwest of Cuero on land of the Young Caruthers survey. W. C. Gohlke donated land for the German Methodist Church which was built in 1894. For some years Reverend Vordenbaum was resident pastor and held morning and afternoon services each Sunday; later Sunday School and church services were held once a month. From 1896 to 1916 Ed T. Rabke operated a grocery store; the Woodman Lodge met in an upstairs room over the store. During the years 1898 to 1905 Rabke also kept the post office in his store. Prior to 1921 children of the Rabke community attended the Twelve Mile School; after 1921 they were taught in nearby Ratcliffe School until it was discontinued in the 1950's.

River Junction The John T. Wofford ranch is west of the Guadalupe River. Probably in the late 1870's stock pens were built on this ranch.

at a location not far from the junction of Sandies Creek with the river. During trail-driving years cattle were collected and held near these pens preparatory to the "up-trail" drive. The cowboys and trail drivers often camped nearby. There is some evidence that in this vicinity there was an early-day "cowboy handout" where games were played and drinks were sold. The pens, the camping grounds, the amusement place, and the confluence of the streams constituted early-day River Junction.

Shiloh This early-day church and school community was located in western DeWitt County four miles east of Yorktown. In 1847 Hence McBride Pridgen bought 200 acres of Calliham Survey land and soon had 30 acres under cultivation, using his slaves as laborers; there were three log cabins and a well on his land. Some other early families were Hamiltons, McFarlands, Odoms, Andersons, and Woods. In 1851 John Kieth Rankin called together what is reputed to have been "the first worshipping band west of the Guadalupe River." Near the grove where they met a Methodist church was built in 1852 and given the name Shiloh. This church continued to have services until 1910 when the Methodist Conference sold the lot and building. Shiloh School was established in 1856 and maintained until 1914. Some of its teachers were William (Bill) McKissack, Miss Williams, "Old Man Badago", Willie Ryan, Jim Buck, Tastus Hedges, Phil Howard, Laura Hudson, Annie Gips, and Lena Gerhardt. Metting School replaced Shiloh School, and it was established at a site convenient for the majority of the pupils. To aid the Confederate cause "Shiloh Home Guards" were organized under H. G. Woods December 25, 1861, and included in District 24 of the State Troops. In 1948 the Woods home and the Woods cemetery were the only remaining remnants of old Shiloh, but the community site continues (1961) to have that name.

Stratton This eastern DeWitt County community is located on the James G. Swisher League. A United States post office was established there November 16, 1887; it was named Stratton for the Cuero saddler John Stratton who at that time had land interests in the vicinity. For about two years Charlie Middlebrooks sorted mail in his home. In 1890 William W. McKissack built the community store in which he served as both proprietor and postmaster. Some families who received their mail in the Stratton Post Office (1890-1905) and afterwards by rural route were the W. A. Luhrsens, Zan Peavys, Charles Steinmanns, Jim Alexanders, Bill Piersons, Walter King Mathews, Jim, Charlie, and "Big Bud" Benbows, Harry and "Dock" Neels, Dr. _____ Drake, Scott Smiths, Gus Lassigs, Sam and Charlie Adams, Marcus Morrows.

Stratton's general merchandise store had four different owners during the years 1890-1905. It continued under a number of others until Hughie Means closed it in 1943. In the early years Stratton had a drug store, a gin, and two blacksmith shops.

W. A. McKissack taught the community's first school in a rented house (1891-1892). Then a one-room school house was erected. In 1925 Stratton became the first consolidated rural school of DeWitt County. A modern two-room building was constructed and used until the school was discontinued in 1950.

The Stratton Primitive Baptist Church, "constituted in December 1883", has had a remarkable record through the years and continues (1961) to serve the area's needs. The population in 1960 was 25.

Terryville The first site of this eastern DeWitt County village was on the Michael Devine Survey. The Bob Alexanders arrived in 1850 as first settlers. The name Terryville was for James and John Terry who opened a store in 1852. Other Terryville families were the Bill Garretts, H. H. Hollands, Bill Simpsons, Charles Yarboroughs, Sam and Henry Williams, James B. Granberrys, Jasper McManus, Alfred and Jeff Dowlarns, Burton and James Powers, Gilbert Keys, Art Edgars.

Until the post office was established in 1869, mail was brought to a community post office from Victoria by Jay Alexander who rode horseback; the round trip took two days.

The David guards were recruited June 25, 1861, under A. J. Scarborough to aid the Confederate cause. The community school house, built in 1870, was of native oak timber sawed into lumber at Charles Hume's near-by mill. There was also a Methodist Church at this first site, marked only by the graveyard, and called "Old Terryville."

In 1886 Terryville was relocated at a more convenient site three miles northeast on the Dunbar League and less than a mile from the Lavaca County boundary. Around 1888-1890 Terryville was at its peak in population and prosperity. It had three grocery stores, a dry goods store, blacksmith shop, gin, well-attended school, an active Methodist Church and Sunday School. These continued until past the turn of the century. Then Terryville declined rather rapidly. The post office was discontinued in December, 1917. By the 1950's automobiles and paved highways had helped to reduce the village to a sparsely populated community with one store and a small Baptist Church. The 1960 population was 50.

Thomaston (Prices Creek) Prices Creek Settlement was begun by Judge David Murphree in 1848 when he built his home on the bank

Prices Creek. Other early families were Wiley and Mary Baker Pridgen, Sr. (1849), James and Julia Harris Houston (1851-1852), Judge David Irvin (1853-1872), John and Jim McDonalds (1852), Oliver Pridgens (1854), John D. Andersons (1864), John Patton (1868).

Prices Creek had no stores or shops. There was a community school, a Sunday School, the United States Post Office, and the Jim McDonald horse-driven cotton gin. Using their Negro slaves as laborers, these settlers prospered in farming and stock-raising (using mules, horses, and some cattle). They continued in their same homes and occupations after Prices Creek was merged into the railroad townsite in 1872, but were glad to help promote Thomaston's development and to cooperate in its activities.

Thomaston With the extension of Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad from Victoria in 1872, Thomaston became DeWitt County's first railroad townsite. It was named for Col. Nathan Thomas from whom land of the Amadore Survey was obtained. John Patton and Mary Melvina Lockhart Wright donated land of the Charles Lockhart survey for the northern section of the townsite.

James H. and Lou Virginia Thomas Moore built Thomaston's first home; James H. and Maggie Hart Pridgen, the second one. Members of the Moore and Pridgen families were active in community activities for many years. Jim Moore (1844-1924) was teacher of Thomaston's first school and was superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School for 50 years. He operated the first gin which had a saw-mill attachment with which heavy timbers, fence posts, and hinges were made from native oak trees. Jim Pridgen (1840-1937) owned and operated the earliest store (1872-1886). For a number of years he kept the post office there and was also "station master" for the railroad. He was very active in the Methodist Church.

In 1885 Raleigh W. Easterling started a second store. Successive proprietors were John Power, general merchandise (1890-1896); O. B. "Dede" and Kate Stone McManus, grocery and dry goods (1898-1932)--continued with grocery department until his death in 1944; David and Rosina Dedear Calliham (1945-1950); Sidney and Lucille Calliham Dedear (1951-1957); then _____ McElroy took over. The store was discontinued in 1961.

Henry McDonald erected a two-story building in 1906. The upper story was rented as a hall for public and Woodmen Lodge meetings, social gatherings, dances, and general entertainments. McDonald managed a grocery store downstairs (1906-1913); Paul Ramsey and Ben Murphree continued the business until 1921.

The McManus brick building was destroyed by fire in 1926.

Henceforth he and the successive merchants did business in the lower story of the McDonald house, which is (1961) the only Thomaston business building left standing; the post office occupies one corner of it.

Tom K. Burrow maintained a drug store at Thomaston (1896-1946). During the early 1890's Dr. T. C. Spencer and Dr. Jack King practiced at Thomaston. Dr. Ed Pridgen, son of Jim and Maggie Hart Pridgen, was resident physician (1896-1934). He was a wonderful "old-time country doctor" who rode many miles to attend his patients. He was unusually successful in treating pneumonia patients.

David Murphree had a butcher shop in the 1890's. Boyd Brown, George Anderson, and Tom Lanmon were short-time blacksmiths. John W. Maness was the long-time smith who specialized in "shoeing horses with deformed or crippled feet." Frank Kruse operated a garage during the 1930's and early 1940's. About 1900 to 1912, George Ferguson managed a sizeable and well-stocked lumber yard.

W. J. "Jap" McManus bought the Thomaston gin from Jim Moore in 1886. His son Dede became a partner in the business in 1896. They then equipped the gin with standard improvements. Due to reduced cotton production, the gin was closed in 1936.

The Thomaston News was published weekly from 1895 to 1900. Successive editors were Ellis Brooks, Walter Eatman, and P. O. Davant. The last editor said he decided to discontinue the paper when Crockett Pridgen offered to give his 1899 cotton crop in payment of a year's subscription.

Efficient agents managed the Thomaston railroad station (1888-1930); express and telegraph offices and a freight warehouse were maintained (1895-1930). Much cotton, truck-farm products, and gravel were shipped from Thomaston; the agents billed out thousands of head of cattle direct from Julia Pens, located a mile and a half to the south. After 1930 Thomaston was a "flag station" until passenger trains were discontinued in November, 1950.

Thomaston community maintained a good school from 1874 to 1949, being fortunate in securing efficient teachers. From 1895-1949 two teachers taught courses from the first through the eighth grade for 9 month terms. Since 1949 Thomaston pupils have been transported by school bus to attend the Cuero schools.

Thomaston had Methodist (1873-1942), Presbyterian (1882-1923), Baptist (1898-1922) organizations and maintained three separate buildings. The three groups worked together harmoniously; on the first Sunday all attended Baptist services; on the second, Presbyterians on the third, Methodist. The Presbyterians had Sunday School every Sunday morning; the Methodists, every Sunday afternoon. The Methodists conducted mid-week prayer services and for several

years had an Epworth League organization. Both the Methodists and the Presbyterians had a Ladies' Aid Society for many years. In the 1890's and early 1900's, it was not unusual for 100 worshipers to be present at the Sunday services and large crowds to attend the special revival meetings.

The Thomaston Cemetery is east of the town on land donated by the Wrights. It contains graves of many of the early settlers and their descendants. It is well-fenced with heavy wire and cement posts, and the community employs (1961) a regular caretaker.

The adjoining Mexican Cemetery and the Negro Cemetery some distance to the northeast give evidence that a rather large number of families of these two ethnic groups were earlier-day citizens of the Thomaston area. The Negro Colony, located in the eastern section of the townsite, still maintains its Baptist organization and church building. The Negro pupils are transported by bus to attend the Daule School at Cuero.

Summing up, during the years after 1872 the railroad town of Thomaston grew to have thirty homes. Its population reached 500. Business enterprises and shops prospered. A school and churches gave educational and spiritual advantages.

In the "horse-and-buggy" years, both the old and the young enjoyed gay times with parties, dances, and general gatherings in the homes, the recreational hall, or the school house. The young folk enjoyed the outdoor sports of tournament races, horseback riding, and swimming at the "Ole Swimming hole" of the Guadalupe River near the Murphree Ford.

School closings were celebrated with interesting programs or plays. In 1925, local talent presented the play, "Better Than Gold", in the school house to a packed audience. They then gave it in two other performances -- at Nursery and Concrete.

Through the years many native sons and daughters of Thomaston have obtained college and university degrees which enabled them to have useful and successful careers. There have been six doctors, three registered graduate nurses, one missionary to Africa; numbers of teachers, railroad officials and employees, merchants, mechanics, stockmen, and farmers.

Six service men from Thomaston did overseas duty in World War I. Eighty-five boys, who had at one time lived at Thomaston, served in the European and Pacific areas in World War II.

All in all, it is generally conceded that the Thomaston-Prices Creek community has had a rather remarkable history and has made worthwhile contributions to the progress of DeWitt County and other sections of Texas. In 1961 a railroad track, a few scattered houses, about 75 residents, and the one business building (designated Thomaston post office) call attention to the changes that have been

brought about by paved highways and motor vehicles.

Upper Cuero Creek The first settlers of this community were John McCoy, his wife, and two children; they arrived in March, 1827, to settle on their DeWitt grant. By 1840 the Kimber W. Barton, Joseph D. Clements, George W. Davis, George Blair, James M. Baker, and Isham North families had established their homes. Dr. Duck, an Englishman, served as resident physician and druggist; the Grimes brothers operated a dry goods store in the 1840's.

James Norman Smith, his wife (Elizabeth Morehead Smith), and children settled near the Blair home in 1840. Smith was the first teacher charging a tuition of \$2 per pupil; his log school house doubled as community center.

The Smiths and Grimes conducted Sunday School regularly. Methodist Circuit Rider Sneed held services in the area from time to time and in June, 1841, the Foster brothers, Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries, organized the area's first church. James Norman Smith and James M. Baker were elders.

In 1842 the residents fled during the threatened Mexican invasion, but most of them (excluding Dr. Duck and the McCoys) had returned and taken up farming again by 1845. With the annexation of Texas and the creation of DeWitt County in 1846 the old community received more settlers and a new name, Concrete.

James Norman Smith gave up teaching to assume the office of county clerk in 1846, but a school continued on Cuero Creek for some time. Rev. and Mrs. James M. Connelly taught in a log house in the 1850's; then William Glass and two assistants taught a school called "Cockle-Bur College." In 1876 a new school house was erected in which Daniel Maynard taught. Debating clubs, a Sunday School, and church services were held there. The last teacher (1887) was very likely Alex Murphree. The social life of Upper Cuero Creek Settlement was accented by plays composed by Dr. Duck and acted out by the local citizens.

Upper Meyersville In 1856 William Westhoff, Sr. established a store in southwestern DeWitt County on the south side of the Twelve Mile Coleta or Cottonwood Creek and eleven miles southeast of Yorktown. On December 22, 1851, the federal government established the Meyer ville post office which was located in the Adolph Meyer's home about one-half mile southeast on the Old Clinton-Goliad Road. In 1855 Meyer petitioned the Post Office Department for a mail route from Cuero (Old Cuero post office at the Cardwell Store four miles north of present Cuero) through Meyersville to Goliad. In November, 1856, the Postmaster General granted permission for the route. Then the post office was moved from Meyer's home

to the William Westhoff store which later became the J. Kron Store. In April, 1873, a mail route was established between the newly established (January, 1873) railroad town of Cuero and Arneckeville, Meyersville, Weser, and Goliad. Meyersville Post Office was then moved from Kron's Store to its permanent location in the Isaac Egg Store, some three miles to the southeast and on the north side of Twelve Mile Coleta or Cottonwood Creek.

Until this date the settlements scattered along on both the north and south sides of the creek were called by the name, Meyersville. After 1873 the settlement on the south side started by William Westhoff was known as Upper Meyersville. In earlier years the one on the north side, now (1960) known only as Meyersville, was spoken of as Lower Meyersville.

Families having business activities from 1860 to 1880 in the locality that came to be designated as Upper Meyersville were store keepers George Palmie, A. W. Naunheim, Val Hardt, J. Kron, Joe Kalamanda, F. Schiwetz; H. Post was a blacksmith; Fred Hardt, a butcher; another Hardt worked as a wheelwright; Frank Sheffler was a cobbler; Dr. J. M. Thompson, a physician; and Mr. William Westhoff, Sr., sold lumber; E. Lassman operated a gristmill powered by a Dutch-type windmill. After 1880 business activity at Upper Meyersville declined. From 1913-1917 the local farmers formed a stock company and operated a large cotton gin and warehouse. Both were moved to another location after a few years.

In 1899 a one-room school house was erected on land donated by T. Bomba. The Bomba School served Upper Meyersville from that date until 1923 when it united with Meyersdale School two miles to the northwest. Prior to 1899 it seems probably that the children of the Upper Meyersville section attended the parochial Catholic school taught by the Sisters of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church.

Polish Catholics built a church in 1902. It was located on the Yorktown-Meyersville Road about two miles northwest of Upper Meyersville and four miles northwest of Sts. Peter and Paul German Catholic Church which is situated on the border between Upper Meyersville and Meyersville. The same pastor ministered to both churches. By 1940 many Polish families had moved away and those left desired to become members of the older church again. In 1946 the Polish Church was torn down and moved away. In 1948 the Upper Meyersville business community consisted of the E. A. Kornfuehrer Garage and the Joe Migura store. The nearby Holly Oil Field, opened in the spring of 1948, brought in several producing wells.

Westhoff (Bello) In 1906 the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended

from Cuero to Stockdale. Near DeWitt County's northwestern boundary and 15 miles northwest of Cuero a town was surveyed for a railroad station. The men engaged in the task of grading the path of the railroad used "friskas" drawn by mules. They pitched their tents near the surveying project and called the site "tent city."

The townsite's elevation was 300 feet and its location was in a beautiful section of rolling country which is especially lovely when vari-colored spring flowers bloom in abundance along the grassy slopes. The early settlers chose to name their city Bello. The first passenger train reached Bello on August 8, 1906.

The town grew rapidly. Soon the following businesses and professional services were established: O. C. Bruening and W. C. Buchhorn, saloon; R. E. Scharnberg, grocery; Hodge Lord, meat market; F. K. Lynch, drugs; Dr. Milner, physician; A. F. Teller, confectionery; William Emler, sandwiches; Charles Wild, grocery and hardware; Gus Theime, general merchandise; Robert Kahlert, furniture; William Bruening, boarding house; L. A. Walker and Charles Mecke, bank; Olenick Brothers, grocery and hardware; H. D. Prusmerfer and Ed Mueller were carpenters; J. E. Denmark, public weigher; J. S. Gentry, drayman; Charles Small, rancher and salesman; Drs. S. P. Boothe and A. Barfield served as physicians; George O. Rehmil and E. T. Teller sold insurance and J. E. Warburton was postmaster.

A post office was established December 10, 1906. Because of the confusion between Bells in Bell County and Bello in DeWitt County, the designation Bello was rejected by the Post Office Department in Washington. The citizens of the town were reluctant to change the name of their settlement, and the controversy continued for some time. Finally (probably in the late summer of 1909) the name Bello was discontinued and the name Westhoff was given to both the post office and the town, in honor of William Westhoff, Sr.

The town continued to grow and new businesses prospered. William Hillman and Son operated the first gin and it was followed by the Smith and Sons Gin moved from Smiley to Westhoff; later Theo Rogge of Shiner built the third gin. The farmers of the surrounding territory produced large cotton crops requiring all three gins to process from daylight until dark. As many as 4800 bales of cotton were ginned in some seasons before the advent of the boll weevil.

Carter Brothers built a spacious general merchandise store about 1910. George Langley also entered the general merchandise business. Meichen and Seim operated a tin shop; George B. Wird had a saddlery and harness shop; Blaschkel Kutac sold groceries and notions; J. F. Goehring operated a meat market; Mrs. Goehring kept a hotel; Julius Kasper, C. T. Roberts and Albert Gerhold had

barber shops; Oscar Wild and F. L. Koehler sold confectionery; J. J. Bomba sold drugs; Jim Matijok maintained a dry goods store and a millinery shop; John Schober operated a bakery and Walter W. Eatman edited the Westhoff Advertiser, a weekly newspaper.

Tragedy struck the prosperous town of Westhoff in 1913. A midnight fire destroyed 13 business houses and the town never fully recovered its former status.

Westhoff's first school house was a one-room frame building erected by public subscription. Teachers were Misses Florence Chess and Burns McMurray. A two-story, four-room brick building was later built by bond subscription. Some of the teachers in the latter school were A. H. Jungerman, Mr. Nowlin, and Mr. Lange. In 1928 another bond issue was voted and a \$21,000, six-room, modern brick building was erected. In 1948 this building was still in use and a good school system was maintained. Miss Lydia Christiansen was the primary teacher, serving continuously since 1916. Mrs. Grace Barfield has been a member of the faculty since 1928, and the principal in 1948, Mrs. Leona Bruening, has shared teaching responsibilities for a number of years.

Westhoff, located on the James Bird Survey, had rail passenger service provided by the Texas and New Orleans until 1950. The town continues (1960) to be served by Continental Trailways buses. There were in 1960 four churches (Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, and Methodist) and a number of business establishments serving a population of nearly 500.

Yorktown It was in 1846 when Captain John York, an early Austin County settler and hero under Ben Milam in the latter's San Antonio campaign, settled on Coletto Creek in DeWitt County. By 1848 box-wagon freighting was passing his home on the Old Indianola Trail. In May, 1848, Charles Eckhardt (soldier, scholar, linguist and Central American land speculator) moved to Coletto. Before York and his friend Eckhardt were able to consummate their plans for a trading post York was killed, along with his son-in-law, John M. Bell, by Lipan Apaches in October, 1848.

A number of German settlers soon constituted what became Yorktown; the original settlers included Julius Gentsch, Carl Gaebler, Frederick Bauer, Heinrich Post, Peter Metz, Mortiz Riedel, Wilhelm Stark, F. Hennig, Caesar Eckhardt, Henry Hardt, Albert Mertins, Ludwig Klotz, Andreas Strieber, Franz Hoppe, John Range, Adolph Schultze, Mortiz Riedel, Jr., and Wilhelm Hardt. Heisig, Dahlman, and Metz families were also living in the area before the Civil War. Franz Hoppe emerged as a community leader; he arranged for streets, a cemetery, the square, and other public facilities.

These early German pioneers, like others of their nationality in Texas, faced the hardships of a virgin country. Living in tents they suffered many adversities but soon prospered. According to contemporaries the woods abounded in game which sustained the settlers until homes could be built and fields cleared and planted.

Yorktown was incorporated in 1871; Robert C. Eckhardt served as first mayor and F. Hoppe, F. Bauer, A. Kraege, F. Zedler, and Robert Gohmert as aldermen. Old or "Upper Yorktown" began to shift southward a short distance by 1886 when the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad penetrated the area.

The church history of Yorktown dates from 1851 when the Rev. Korte, a Methodist, served the area; in 1851-1853 the Rev. Haerdtle made an unsuccessful attempt to establish Lutheranism. Later Rev. S. Sager preached once a month after traveling from Five-Mile Community. Other early pastors included Reverends A. Holzinger (who established a congregation in 1861 which suffered schism as a result of the Civil War), L. Schumacher, Schaeg, and Oehler; both of the latter were residents of Meyersville. A Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1872 and the Rev. Lettermann was called to serve, followed by Revs. Falkenberg (1884-1893) and J. K. Poch.

Catholicism dates from 1858 when a number of Polish immigrants arrived. They built a log church in 1868 and in 1886, following the destructive hurricane of that year, erected a new building. Another was constructed in 1897 to replace the first. These churches were served by Revs. P. Kraus, R. Magott, J. Walnczewiez and T. Mosczygamba. A Presbyterian Church was organized in 1897 with Dr. J. J. Atkinson as minister.

The teaching of young Yorktowners began in 1855 with G. Fuchs as teacher in the town's first school building. In 1861 L. Schumacher a much respected citizen who lived to the age of eighty years, began a school which by 1865 had fifty pupils. School supplies in the early years were precious; broken slates were used as pencils and the one community reader, the "waschlappen" (dish rag), was carefully circulated. The well trained German teachers relied on their memories for instruction.

By 1866 a new school was begun which followed the Holzinger and other institutions. Mr. Frenck, Rudolph Kleberg, R. J. Kleberg, W. T. Eichholz, R. A. Pleasants, L. Lempke, Judge Kilgore and Prof. Schmidt were early teachers; Messrs. Erb, Mundt, Bernstein, and Boal were pioneer school principals. In 1884 the "Schulverein," a community school organization, was begun and Yorktown's first modern institution was initiated in March of that year.

Texas Germans are renowned for their singing, shooting, and social clubs. In Yorktown the Old Band (organized by Riedel and

Gips in 1869), the Ideal Brass Band (begun by L. Strieber in 1890), and the Lone Star Band (led by Eckhardt and Zedler after 1894) bear witness to this tradition. Other social and cultural facilities included the following: Gohmerts Theatre (1856), Gesangverein and Theatergesel'schaft (1857 by A. Greisen), Gortschritt Verein (1868 after Gohmert's was destroyed by storm in 1863), Lenz's Theatre (1871), and Riedel's Opera House (1892). Among the clubs and lodges were an early lodge of 1852, the Schiller Lodge Knights of Honor (1882), Yorktown Mutual Benefit Association (1895), Armin Lodge of the Sons of Hermann (1890), Woodmen (1894), Sandwich Club (1894) and the Lese-Zirkel Club (1894).

Early business establishments were numerous: August Kraeger, Sr., tanner; Robert and B. F. Gohmert, tanners and store-keepers; M. Riedel, Sr., cotton gin proprietor; C. W. Nau and Bauer, drug and general merchandise; Strieber Brothers, a ginning operation which succeeded the Riedel enterprise. Serving both the consuming and business community was Dr. Hodge, a pioneer physician.

Of the records depicting early Yorktown Robert Kleberg's historical essay of 1898 is most valuable. In that year it was reported that Yorktown's population consisted mostly of German families with only 7 or 8 Anglo-American groups, 10-12 Negro families and a few Mexicans; a number of Bohemian and Polish pioneers lived nearby. Kleberg emphasized that these dissimilar groups enjoyed social harmony. Hard work, he reports and the deprivations of the early days left little time for suspicions and bickering; the settlers appear to have been to some degree puritanical in that not one gambling establishment was operated at the time of Kleberg's report.

A sampling of business statistics of 1898 provides a picture of economic life in early Yorktown: in 1897-1898, 5,200 bales of cotton were sold; Gohmert and Kraeger shipped 2,600 turkeys, 5,500 chickens and 10,000 eggs. Indian corn in that same year sold for \$.35 per bushel; flour was \$4.75-\$5.50 per barrel; beef sold for \$.05-\$.10 per pound and cotton 5 1/4 cents per pound. Wages paid to white day laborers ranged from \$1.25-\$2.00; and for Mexican laborers \$.75-\$1.00. Carpenters earned \$1.65-\$2.50 per day.

In 1948 Yorktown, located on the Texas and New Orleans Railroad and State Highways 72 and 119, had bus service, a municipal airport, 21 teachers, 656 scholastics, a Lutheran, Catholic, and Baptist Church, DeWitt County's oldest Masonic Lodge, modern business houses, mills, shops, utilities and amusements. The final resting places of Captain John York and Robert J. Kleberg, both buried near Yorktown, salute the past. Yorktown's population in 1960 was 2,527.

CHAPTER IV PERSONAL SKETCHES

The statistics of birth, death, marriage, and the facts bearing on political, economic, or religious affiliation hardly bear true witness to the manifold joys, disappointments, prejudices, and heart-aches experienced by those pioneers who, without maudlin romanticism, can truly be credited with adjustments to a wild and unfriendly frontier which today would prove too formidable for their descendants.

Still, all that remains are the few such statistics which, in conjunction with hearsay and an attempt to apply imagination, allow us to appreciate in some small way the lives that were spent during epidemics, Indian raids, Civil War, feuding, and the general hardships of the frontier period of DeWitt County's history when infant mortality was high and family self-sufficiency, while virtuous, was often very demanding of human resources.

Recognizing the limitations inherent in historical presentation and respecting the sensitivities which are often present on the local scene, the personal and family sketches which follow have been composed to afford descendants an opportunity to recall with pride their family connections and to supply students with some basic facts on the county's development through the lives of its inhabitants; to underscore long since dead animosities, often based more on opinion than fact, would serve no good purpose.

A majority of DeWitt County pioneers immigrated from the slave-holding southern states; in a few instances northern settlers will be found. A large number of German and a lesser number of Irish, English, and Alsatian families will also appear. It is notable that many of the families were acquainted and related through marriage in the states through which the settlers traveled on their way to Texas or in the eastern portion of that country before reaching South Texas. The Bells and Yorks (known to one another in Industry and New Ulm), Rankins, Lynchs and McDonalds (acquainted or related in the region of Brandon, Mississippi) and others serve as examples.

Once settled, many of these early Texans invited parents, sweethearts, or those who remained of their own families to join them. The Klebergs communicated with Frederick Ernst for example; he in turn sent descriptions of Texas to many of his countrymen. The Rankin family encouraged innumerable families to settle in DeWitt County. The Weisigers were influential as a bridge between Kentucky and DeWitt County.

The migration to DeWitt County as seen in these sketches appears as an example in miniature of the more general westward movement of the United States. The War of 1812 (DeWitt County veteran pioneers

were Valentine Bennet, Joel H. Heard, Major James Kerr, and others) provided an impetus to the already strong urge to move west. Americans came across the Appalachians to plant, escape, hunt, or simply to remain on the edge of the westward wave; there they organized a second tier of states, eg., Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama. Land, cotton, opportunities to use the slave-labor system, and pure adventure drew them after a generation (often sooner) to Spanish and then Mexican Texas.

Families would often establish homes in East Texas before settling in DeWitt County (as evidenced by the Pridgen family in Marshall, Texas or the Suttons in Fayette County). Life was difficult; not only were the tasks of building homes, clearing fields, and providing a living hard, but the political situation was unstable. Indian troubles and the Texas Revolution caused evacuations of the region.

Independence, the end of Indian depredations, and the Mexican War 1846-1848 (Colonel August Buchel, Alfred Friar, Bolivar Pridgen, Redding Smith Pridgen, and others took part) attracted adventurers and finally, because of the territorial additions, possibilities for slavery, and the settlement of the Mexican claim, promised a bright future for the area. Cotton, cattle, horses, and general farming were now free to develop as the earliest industries.

The stability was undone by the Civil War and a disorderly and confused era followed, but by the 1880's the cattle industry and the return of adequate law enforcement had effected a restoration.

The decline of those kinds of opportunities which characterized the county prior to the closing of the local and indeed the more general frontier was steady and disturbing; the introduction of the railroad, commerce, technology, and general business activity are reflected in the demands, as seen in the family sketches, for more and different educational opportunities and the increasing number of county residents who took formal training of a professional nature, and the number of descendants who earned college and university degrees.

Pioneers and Prominent Families

R. M. Adcock R. M. "Ren" Adcock, a long-time farmer and stockman, married Lillie Jones; they reared a large family. Calvin Adcock, grocery clerk in Cuero, married Julia Kohutek. Lucy became the wife of Adam Kohutek; this couple had three sons. Eva, a practical nurse at Yorktown, married a Mr. Pierson and has one son and one daughter. Evie Adcock cares for her aged

parents at Cuero. Johnnie, a veterinarian, has a wife and several children. Ollie married and reared one son. Ocie Lee "Buster" Adcock is married with one son and one daughter. Dave Adcock, his wife and children, live near San Marcos. Tommy and his wife have several children. Medina is married but has no children.

Ren Adcock's brother, Richard "Dick", lives just across the boundary in Victoria County. He and his wife, nee Buena Magee, were very active members of the Thomaston Methodist Church. Their children are Vivian (Mrs. Carl Johnston), Avis (Mrs. New-comer) and son, Glen. All three children received college degrees.

The Alexanders A number of the Alexander group arrived from Mississippi about 1850 and settled in the Stratton-Terryville area. Among the earliest to come was Jim, who donated land near Stratton for the Alexander Cemetery, and Bob who rode horseback to Victoria to bring mail to the community post office of "Old Terryville". Charles Alexander was the father of John Alexander who married Rene Mathews (five children); they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1962.

George Monroe "Uncle Tip" Alexander (1840-1930) was a cousin of John. He came from Mississippi to live in DeWitt County about 1860; he served in the Confederate Army, was one of the 30 men who went with Thornton Chisholm on the initial "Chisholm Trail Drive" in 1866. He married Susan Marshall (1847-1942).

Tip and Susan Marshall Alexander lived in their home just north of Cuero and reared ten children. He was a farmer and stockman. Some of the children were Sarah (Mrs. Zann Peavy), Annie (Mrs. Steve Dunn and later Mrs. Tom Murphree), Aaron, John, and Blake, who married and reared families, and Ben, a bachelor.

John D. Anderson (1832-1912) was born in South Carolina and moved to Clinton in 1859. The journey to Texas was made by Mrs. Ianthé Wallace Anderson and her six weeks old son, John Dorrah, in a carriage specially prepared for their comfort. Mr. Anderson's Negro slaves followed in mule-drawn wagons. The Andersons' trek was punctuated by recognition of the Sabbath wherever the family found itself on that day.

In the fall of 1864, the Andersons moved east of the river to the two-story house that served as the family home through succeeding years. As a farmer in the Thomaston area, Mr. Anderson was well-known as an exceptionally skillful agriculturalist and for his considerate attitude in his dealings with his slaves. He served in the Confederate Army for three years and was stationed at Galveston where he was commissioned a lieutenant.

There were nine children born to this Presbyterian family (three died in infancy). Wallace Anderson (1865-1913) was a farmer. He married Julia Rose, daughter of Victor Rose and granddaughter of Margaret Hefferman Hardy, the famous woman cattle drover. Margaret Lee Anderson (1861-1916) attended Due West Female College in South Carolina and married Joseph William Caldwell; their daughter Kathleen became Mrs. John M. Harden. Nancy Alberta Anderson (1868-1947) attended Sam Houston Normal College and married Charlie E. Kaapke (1866-1895); their daughter Janet married Walter Long of Austin. Walter Long is author of Flood to Faucet, a story of the development of the Colorado River, and the Longhorn Crossing, a story of the first herd of Longhorns to cross the Colorado River on their way to market at Abilene, Kansas.

Mary Ianthe Anderson (1871-1961) attended Sam Houston Normal and became the second wife of Rev. A. H. Porter McCurdy (Presbyterian). Their five children were John Anderson, Porter, Charles Albert, Marion Wallace, and Mary Ianthe.

George Stuart Anderson (1872-1947) attended A&M College and married Mary Murphy Carr; their daughter Louise married Samuel Douglas Boyd.

William Irven Anderson (1874-1953) attended A&M College; he married May Alexander (1885-1923); their son was William Irven, Jr. Widower Irven Anderson married the widow Judith Carpenter Dillon who had a daughter Margaret. Irven and Judith were the last members of the family to occupy the home, which is still (1961) owned by Anderson heirs.

William Anderson, a brother of John Anderson, was a native of South Carolina. He married Eliza Pickens. They had a daughter, Eloise. William Anderson bought the Judge David Irvin estate at Prices Creek from the administrators in 1874; he built a large two-story home and later sold his property to Richard C. Warn in 1875; William Anderson left the county after the transaction.

The Bakers James McCulloch Baker (1797-1882) was born in South Carolina and moved to Tennessee as a youth. In 1834 his family relocated in Mississippi and six years later he arrived at the Upper Cuero Creek Settlement where he began his tenure as a Presbyterian elder. James McCulloch Baker served as Chief Justice of Gonzales County and was appointed in 1846 as one of several commissioners authorized to organize DeWitt County. In 1818 Martha Jane Smith (b 1803) became the wife of James McCulloch Baker. Thirteen children were born to the couple in the states of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Texas:

Martha Jane Baker (1820-1840) married Isham North in 1838;

Samuel Smith Baker (1821-1904) married Eliza J. Austin; Joseph Lock Baker (b 1823); Nancy Ann Baker (1824-1895) married William Pincham; Mary Clementine Baker (1826-1900) married first John Foster and later Isham North; Margaret Mackey Baker (b 1828) married Arthur Swift in 1866; James Porter Baker (1828-1913) married Maria A. Woodley in 1856; Elizabeth Gillia Baker (1831-1922) married William Thomas Murphree; William Williams Baker (1833-1909) married Lou Ella Evans in 1853; John Brown Baker (b 1834); Michael Jefferson Baker (1838-1901) married Elizabeth Wallis; Eliza Eudora Baker (b 1842) became the second wife of William Thomas Murphree; Sarah Allison Baker (1844-1880) married John H. Blackwell.

The Samuel Smith and Eliza Austin Baker family consisted of James M. Baker (b 1841); Inez B. Baker (b 1845); Martha Jane Baker (b 1846); William J. Baker (b 1847); Betty P. Baker (1849-1913); Mary Ann Baker (1851-1899); Brit L. Baker (1855-1892); Jennie P. Baker (b 1856); Ozella Baker (1858-1869)

The Nancy Ann and William Pincham children were Marrie (1852-1889); James (1855-1918); Eudora; Samuel; Dick; Blanche.

Margaret and Arthur Swift reared Mary, Martha, Margaret, and Ellen Swift.

James Porter Baker and Maria A. Woodley Baker's children were Sarah Elizabeth Baker (1858-1913); James Baker (1860-1867); Charles Ewing Baker (1862-1880); William Jefferson Baker (1866-1908); Carrie Mason Baker (1868-1937) and Mary Ida Baker (1871-1872).

William and Lou Ella Evans Baker were the parents of Fannie Baker (1857-1864), Nancy Baker (d 1866), and Evelyn Baker (d 1870).

The Michael Jefferson and Elizabeth Wallis Baker family consisted of the following children: Nettie Baker, who married A. R. Harwood; Otis G. Baker; Eleanor Baker, who married John Osman; Susie Baker; Wallis Baker; John Baker.

Sarah Allison Baker, the youngest of the James McCulloch and Martha Jane Smith children, married John H. Blackwell; the children of this couple were Inez, who married C. L. Eckhardt; Zora, who married Val Bennet; Beulah, who became Mrs. Dudley Bennet; Finley, an excellent doctor; David; John Hampton Blackwell.

Andrew Jackson "Jack" Bell was the son of Granville P. Bell, who arrived in Texas in 1833 from Tennessee and later served in both the Mexican and Civil Wars. Andrew Jackson Bell was born in 1856 in Fayette County and married Mary Ann McDonald. Jack Bell died in 1918 after farming and raising stock in the Burns Station region leaving Laura and John, his children, and his wife, Mollie. Connected families were the Neals, Shanks, and Hackneys.

James Madison Bell was born in Tennessee in 1817; he married Miriam York. James M. Bell arrived at New Ulm in 1834 with his parents. They then moved to DeWitt County in 1846. James Madison had several brothers who served together in the Texas Revolution. The San Antonio Express referred to one of the many contributions of James M. Bell: "Being the only one to be found at the assembling of the Texas Congress, the Bible of James Madison Bell was used in the administering of the oaths of office and was so inscribed by the clerk."

James Madison Bell lost his life in the same battle in which his father-in-law, John York, was killed -- that of Escondido Creek. Both bodies were buried about eight miles east of Yorktown.

The children of James M. and Miriam York Bell were Sarah Jane; Julia; John York and James Robert Bell. John York Bell married Annie Wofford and James Robert married Mary Eliza Pullen.

William Bell William and Julia Johnson Bell moved to Texas from Hareman County, Tennessee, in January, 1834, bringing with them eight sons and one daughter. They settled in Austin County. Listed in order of birth the children were Thomas H., William, Granville, Jackson, John, James Madison, Joseph, Adeline, and Frank. The father died about 1835; the mother about 1846.

At the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, the six oldest Bell sons enlisted in the army, leaving their widowed mother with Joseph (age thirteen years), Adeline, and Frank. Thomas J., William, and James Madison served in the company of Captain John York in the Battle of Bexar in December, 1835. Thomas H. and James Madison Bell participated in the Battle of San Jacinto as members of Captain Mosely Baker's, "San Felipe Company."

Miles Squier Bennet (1818-1903) was born in New York and came to Texas in 1838; he married Bathsheba Gipson (1824-1901) in 1845. He came to DeWitt County in 1841 and in 1849 began a service of fifty-four years as a Presbyterian elder. The children were as follows: Sarah Kibbe (1848-1915) who married T. M. Walker in 1875; Mary Gipson (1846-1932) who married first (1871) Alexander Hamilton Phillips and later (1887) Dr. Max Urwitz; Samuel Davis Bennet (1849-1913) became the husband of Josephine McRae (1862-1950). Mary McRae "Rae", daughter of Samuel and Josephine Bennet, was a devoted nurse who married Alton Lancaster; her sister, Nell, married Ernest B. Meynard.

Other children of Miles and Bathsheba Bennet were Anna E. (1852-1915); Valentine (b 1856), who married Zora Blockwell in 1874; Arabella (b 1854) married James R. Wofford in 1881; Robert

Mills (1856-1903); Miles Dudley (1864-1942) married Beulah Belle Blackwell (1886-1950).

Valentine Bennet (1780-1843) was born in Massachusetts and arrived in East Texas about 1825. As a colonist of Green DeWitt, he came to live at Gonzales in 1831, but he located his land grant in the area that later became DeWitt County. In 1838, his son Miles Squier and his daughter Sarah Jane came to live with him at Gonzales. His wife and Sarah Jane's twin sister, Mary Jane, had died before Valentine came to Texas.

Valentine Bennet was a veteran of the War of 1812. As a lieutenant and as a major in the quartermaster and commissary department, he rendered valuable service in the Texas Revolution. He was present at Velasco, Gonzales, Bexar, San Jacinto, the Santa Fe and Somerville Expeditions, and the Battle of Salado. His death occurred at the Bennet home at Gonzales in July, 1843.

Edward C. Bernard was a native of England and married Lena Kraemer after arriving in America at the age of 17. Helen Bernard, a daughter, married Douglas Benton.

The Bluntzers Peter Bluntzer was born in Alsace, France, and after being informed of the opportunities in Texas he decided to bring his wife and eight children to the colony of Henry Castro. An accident detained the family and they settled on a grant of land in what later became DeWitt County.

Leaving his wife and children in the Texas wilderness he went back to France and brought others to the DeWitt County region; before his career as colonizer ended he had introduced 50 families to Texas on each of two trips to Europe.

Leo Bluntzer, a son of Peter, was killed at Buena Vista during the Mexican War; a daughter was stolen by the Indians but was later found, unharmed and dressed as an Indian princess whose health was ensured through the respect held for her father by the local tribes. Peter Bluntzer died at the home of his son Nicholas in 1871.

Urban Bluntzer was born May 31, 1831, Odern Elsas, France. He migrated to Texas with his parents and brothers and sisters in 1843; his first home was Clinton. The family then moved to Meyersville where Urban died July 15, 1882. His life had been full: he decided to enlist in General Zachary Taylor's forces at the age of 14 (discouraged by a friend); on many occasions he served as interpreter for the DeWitt County Germans and traveled as far as New Braunfels in that capacity; he was a Ranger under Capt. C. Davis on the Rio Grande and an Indian fighter in the Creed Taylor

company; during the Civil War he enlisted in Josiah Taylor's unit, Company G. of Wood's Cavalry. Following the Civil War Urban took up farming, a profession he followed until his death.

Urban Bluntzer and his wife, nee Amelia Gerhardt of Yorktown, had eight children: John, Alvin, Louis, Christian, Amelia, Gustav, Alfred, and Emma.

Ernest Bohne was born in Alsace-Lorraine and settled in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1911 he arrived in Cuero where he made his living as a merchant. Henry C. Bohne, a Cuero barber, was a son of Ernest Bohne and married Alma Menzenmaier. Carl J. Bohne, another son, married Clara Guenther and later Birdie White. Anesta Bohne, daughter of the first marriage, became Mrs. Lott Taylor. Carl J., Jr. was the son of Carl and Birdie White Bohne.

James Brown (1808-1887) migrated to Texas from Mississippi in the 1850's. His wife was Mildred "Milly" Mayes (1814-1900). She was a remarkable pioneer and known affectionately as "Grandma Brown." James Brown served as county tax collector. Quite a number of children were reared in the Brown home:

Jane (b 1837) married Henry Edgar; Harriett (b 1839) married first Arthur Edgar, and second W.J. "Jap" McManus; Mollie (b 1842) married John Edgar; Eliza (b 1853) married Bob Spinks; Melissa (b 1859) married Bert Meddlin; Sarah Ann married Samuel B. Epperson (this couple lived in the Meyersville area and had several children: Eliza, Samuel B., Jr., and Mittie Ann who married Edward Coleman); Joe (b 1848) married Alabama "Bammy" Edgar; Robert (b 1856) married Josephine "Jo" Hargrove; Dave (b 1861) married Addie York; William, who lived in South America for a number of years, married and reared one daughter.

James Murray Brown was of Scotch-Irish descent and a native of Virginia. He and his wife Caroline Harris Brown came to Texas about 1846 and settled in DeWitt County near Twelve-Mile Coletto Creek where he was a farmer and ranchman. Four daughters and two sons grew up in the home.

Eva Brown married Lawley Reagan, a stock-farmer of Oakville (one daughter, Evie). Sue Brown married Dr. Charles Reagan of Beeville (their children were Sue May, Pryor, Charles, Eugene, Tom, a doctor, John, and Lawrence). Carrie Brown became Mrs. Will D. McCurdy (they had a son and four daughters); Lila Brown "Miss Lila" has served many years as secretary of Cuero Presbyterian Church; Murray Brown was the oldest of the group (he lived at San Antonio after his marriage); Powell Brown married Burnley Porter (they lived at Mathis where he was a farmer-stockman--

there were six children: Charles, Lila, Henry, Lottie, Ruth and Jane). Both parents died of pneumonia in January, 1937.

Colonel August Buchel (1811-1864) was an early German immigrant to Indianola. His background was that of the soldier and military instructor. He served several nations as a commissioned officer. In the United States he fought in the Mexican War and as a Confederate colonel lost his life in the Civil War. Colonel Buchel was the uncle of Otto Buchel of Cuero.

The Buchels - August, Fred, and Otto August and Fred Buchel were small boys when they arrived from Germany with their parents who settled at Indianola where Otto was born in July, 1869. In 1873 these three Buchel brothers moved to the town of Cuero. Otto started the bank that developed into the Buchel National Bank and built Cuero's first dam and power house. He married Olga George Vahldieck; their daughter, Erna, became Mrs. Fritz Koehler; the son, Theodore O. Buchel, married Carrie May Smith.

August and Fred both farmed Guadalupe Valley land near Cuero. They were partners in the Buchel Gin which played an important part during the years when cotton production contributed to the county's economy.

August Buchel married Pamela Davis. The mother, the four daughters, and one of the three sons were Cuero Presbyterians. These were Minnie (Mrs. Harvey Swift), Rose May (Mrs. Duncan Southerland), Leona (Mrs. A. W. Herring), Pamela, and Walter. Both of these last two remained single.

Fred Buchel married Mary Davis (sister of his brother August's wife, Pamela). They had no children but Floyd Buchel was their adopted son. He married Ruth McRae; their children were Elva (Mrs. Jack Lankford) and Floyd, Jr who was a war casualty in the Pacific area in 1942. The Floyd Buchel family were Cuero Presbyterians.

Arthur Burns Born in Pennsylvania in 1780 Arthur Burns moved as a youth to Missouri. He and his first wife had a daughter, Pamela. Arthur and his second wife, Cynthia Burns, were the parents of Cynthia, Squire, Emily, and Zilla. Arthur and Sarah Morgan Burns, his third wife, and the five children settled on his grant of a league and a labor of land lying east of the Guadalupe River in August, 1826, being the first of DeWitt's colonists to arrive in the area. Soon the son, Columbus, and the daughter, Ardelia, became members of the Burns family.

Arthur Burns was a farmer and stockman; he operated a water-powered grist mill on the river bank. He was commissioned during

the Runaway Scrape (1836) to insure the safe withdrawal by ox-wagon of DeWitt area women and children. Though a man of few words he was active in promoting the area that finally became DeWitt County and was present at its organization. Arthur Burns died on a trip to Iowa in 1856. Sarah Morgan Burns died in 1861.

Pamela (Mrs. William Simpson), Cynthia (Mrs. Lige Williams), and Emily (Mrs. John Buchanan) lived outside the county after marriage. Zilla died at a young age. Squire Burns received a quarter league land grant adjoining his father's. He was active in assisting the organization of defense against Indians and Mexicans and served as a scout in the Texas Army of 1835-1836. Squire Burns was killed accidentally in 1846 as a result of a pistol discharge. Ardelis, the youngest of the Arthur Burns children, married Rev. Thomas Cook (Methodist); they lived south of Irish Creek. Their daughter, Gabriella, married Evan S. Weisiger. Many of the Arthur Burns descendants were life-long DeWitt County residents, and some continue (1961) to make their homes in the area.

Columbus Burns (1829-1899) was the area's first native Anglo-American child. He and his sister, Ardelia (b 1832), grew up in their parents' pioneer home. Columbus became a stock-farmer; he married Mary Ann DeMoss in 1850. Their home was north of Irish Creek not far from the home of his parents. After his father's death, Columbus assisted his mother with the management of her interests.

Columbus Burns engaged in government freighting to and from Mexico in the 1860's and did Civil War service on the Rio Grande border; he was at home periodically to advise his wife, sons, and slaves who managed the stock-raising. They branded 500 calves in 1862 and sold beeves to the Confederate Government for military consumption.

The Columbus Burns family was of the Baptist faith. Five sons and five daughters were reared in the home at Burns Station: Lewis Burns (1851-1928) was a large scale farmer north of Cuero; the children by his wife, nee Annie White, were Tom, Columbus, Mamie, and Frank; by his second wife, nee Anna Wright, he had Nellie and Patton. Arthur Burns (1853-1914) was the second child. Martha Burns and her husband Jesse Agee had two daughters, Etta and Addie. Ardelia Burns became Mrs. John Shanks; they reared their children Ella, Joe, Frank, Annie May, Lizzie, John, and Roberta in the Burns Station area. Mary Ann Burns married Hiram Charles Pace; their children were John and Ottie. Julia Burns and her husband, Nelson Bonner, were the parents of Zilla and Donna. James Columbus Burns (1862-1952), schooled at Concrete College and the University of Texas, was a lawyer at Goliad and married Mary Wilson;

their son was James Morgan Burns. Ella Burns (1864-1949) attended Concrete College and married Rev. Robert A. Partain (Baptist). She was left a widow in 1897 and returned to Cuero and reared the three children, Burns Partain who died in young manhood, Jeannette (Mrs. Grady Cook, a teacher at Cuero), and Roberta Ardelia, who married Robert Tinsley of Gonzales. John W. Burns (1866-1937) was a physician and surgeon who married Nettie Gillette; the sons, Gillette and Arthur, became doctors and the daughter, Dorothy, married Le Roy Hamilton. Wade Burns, the youngest of the Columbus Burns group, died in young manhood.

Arthur Burns (1853-1914), son of Columbus Burns, was born and grew up in Irish Creek. He married Evie Cardwell after attending Concrete College. They lived in the Cardwell parental home from 1882 to 1894; they then moved to the home that Arthur built for his family in Cuero.

For a time Arthur Burns was a successful DeWitt County farmer; he also had ranching interests in Jackson County. His later interests included extensive ranches located in Borden and Dawson Counties on the West Texas plains; he lived out his life, however, in DeWitt County.

Arthur and Evie Burns were the parents of three sons and two daughters. He was Baptist; she, the oldest son, and the two daughters were Presbyterians. John Cardwell Burns, an instructor in A&M College, married Mattie Watkins (two daughters); Arthur Clayton Burns, a graduate veterinarian (Texas A&M and Ohio State University) married Louise Hudgins (two daughters); Mary Evie Burns attended Kidd Key College and married Joseph Lockhart (one daughter, Nettie Evelyn); Anna Belle Burns, a Kidd Key College graduate, married Julius Haak and was especially talented in music; Douglas Burns, graduate of Texas A&M, continues to manage Pitchfork Ranch near Guthrie, Texas.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Calhoun Elizabeth Hungerford Smith, daughter of James Norman and Sallie Jenkins Smith, married Colonel William Calhoun (1807-1841) in 1832 and they lived in Tipton County, Tennessee. In 1843 the widow Calhoun brought her sons Sam, William (1837-1854), and John, and the daughter, Lizzie, to live in the Clinton area of Texas. Lizzie Calhoun (1841-1870) married Edmund Fox Wilson; there were three sons.

The widow Elizabeth Smith Calhoun married John D. Barnhill in 1848. He was a farmer near Clinton. She was a charter member of the Live Oak Presbyterian Church; he also became a member after their marriage. There were three Barnhill daughters; Martha became Mrs. Will Carter; they had one son, Willie. Sallie married John Williamson and they had six children. Lydia married a Mr.

Hook; her son, John C. Hook, married and had six children.

John Richard Calhoun (1839-1914) came to Texas from Tennessee at the age of four years and lived in the Clinton area and at Cuero the remainder of his life. He was a Confederate veteran doing service and being wounded at Chickamauga and Murfreesboro. Later he made several trips up the trail as a drover for Captain Harvey Cunningham. It was on one of these drives in 1866 that he met Annie Rennold, daughter of John C. and Annie Guensenberry Rennold.

In July, 1867, John R. Calhoun returned to Higbee, Missouri, to marry Annie Rennold. They made the trip to Texas by boat. She contracted yellow fever enroute and was in quarantine for some time at Indianola. Dr. Joseph N. Reuss was her attending physician. As soon as he considered it safe, he granted the groom permission to take his bride to their DeWitt County home.

John and Annie Calhoun soon became members of the Presbyterian Church at Clinton; after 1883 their membership was at Cuero. He served as deacon (1883-1896) and elder (1897-1914); he was honored with a memorial window in the Cuero Church.

Seven sons and two daughters grew up in the Calhoun farm home located near Heard Bridge; John William married Willie Slaughter Sutton; their three sons were Norman, Ralph, and Frank. John William later married Beulah Nash, daughter of Professor D. W. Nash. Samuel Norman Calhoun married Annie Lynn Wimberly (they were parents of Nannie Gladys, Norma Lynn, Melvin Joe, and Lila Mae). Imogene became Mrs. George William Johnson; George William, Jr., died at the age of five years. Alvin Burton married Mildred Fenner; they had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Aline. Charles Rennold and Lillian Grafton Alsworth Calhoun were the parents of Calvin Alsworth, Annie Elizabeth, Festus Farnsworth, Nora Louise, Lillian Grafton, and Charlyne Rennold. George David married Ella Galle; their daughters were Imogene Gladys and Georgia Roberta. James Link married Lodie Barnes and had one daughter, Marguerite. Annie Elizabeth became Mrs. Herbert B. Montgomery. This couple was a credit to the teaching profession. Their daughters were Ann Margaret and Jo Beth; the youngest of these Calhoun children was Joseph Henry (1885-1913).

Samuel Daniel Calhoun (1834-1919) was eight years of age when he came from Tennessee to live in the DeWitt County region. He aided his grandfather, James Norman Smith, in cutting and hauling pecan clapboards for the construction of the county clerk's office at Cameron in 1846. He engaged in farming and moved from his first home near Heard Bridge to Cuero in 1894.

Sam Calhoun entered the Confederate Army and saw much service north of the Mason-Dixon; he was a Union prisoner for seventeen months. After the close of the war he walked from Richmond, Virginia, and reached home with the fifteen cents he had when he had begun his journey; food and lodging were donated by sympathetic farmers all along the way.

Nancy Elizabeth "Bettie" Sumners (1852-1944) became the wife of Sam Calhoun in 1869; they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary a few months before his death. They were Presbyterians at Clinton and Cuero; he was an elder for forty-four years and is remembered with a memorial window in the Cuero Church.

Sam and Bettie Calhoun reared six sons and one daughter; James "Jim" Clayton (1869-1945) was a rancher, farmer, Presbyterian elder, and Mason; in 1908 his cotton crop brought \$20,000. He married Nannie Clark; their children were Thompson, Dan, Levis, Alda Mae, and Bess. William "Will" Richard (1872-1936) was a jovial bachelor who farmed at Charco and Edna. Lemuel "Lem" Smith (1874-1952) married Jennie Wofford; their son was Walter Calhoun. Sam DeVilbiss (1878-1920) married Mary Hattenbach; their children were Florence, Stayton, Douglas, Willie Louise, James Clayton "Jake," Marion Brightwell "Sport," and Sam, Jr. Annie Eliza (b 1882) married Walter Marion Brightwell (1873-1919) in 1909; she and her mother became widows the same year and lived together in the Cuero home for twenty-five years. Annie continues as the only surviving member of the family. Charlie White (1884-1958) married Willie Pettus; their children were Fanny Betty, Ruth, Lem, and Charlie Bill. Tom Clarence (1889-1942) was a farmer at Charco and later near San Antonio; he was a veteran of World War I and married Charlie Ross Cook.

Walter Calliham was born in San Patricio County in 1870. As an infant his widowed mother brought him to Irish Creek, and he later farmed and served as a carpenter at Thomaston while encouraging local education as a school trustee. He and his wife, nee Minnie Eatman, were the last to occupy the old Pridgen-Eatman Home. The five children were John Edward who died in infancy; Maggie Mae, who married Philip Braden; Mary Elizabeth, who married Charles P. Murphree; Lucille Edwinna, who married Sidney J. Dedear; David Calliham married Rosina Dedear, sister of Sidney Dedear. After her marriage Rosina left the Catholic church and along with her family joined the Cuero Methodist Church.

Maggie Mae taught school prior to her marriage. Elizabeth Calliham Murphree has a master's degree and continues as primary teacher in the Cuero school (1961). All members of the Walter and Minnie Calliham famile were Methodists at Thomaston. After

marriage Maggie Mae and Lucille changed to the Catholic faith with their husbands. Charles and Elizabeth Calliham have been members of the Cuero Presbyterian Church since 1939.

Crockett Cardwell (1812-1891) was a native of Mercer County, Kentucky, came to Texas in 1833, and operated stores at Port Lavaca and Hallettsville prior to his purchase in 1849 of the D. B. Friar Place in the Cuero Creek area; he operated this business for the next twenty-five years and often traveled to New York for merchandise. On one such trip he ordered a special four-poster bed seven feet square. It was especially made in Cincinnati and is still a prized possession of the grandson of Crockett Cardwell, John Cardwell Burns. In addition to his mercantile business Crockett Cardwell served as DeWitt County commissioner and had plantation and cattle interests. Negro slaves were used for these activities.

Ann Eliza White (1842-1914) became Mrs. Crockett Cardwell in 1846. She had an unusual knowledge of medicine (a natural ability improved by study of medical books). She gained much experience from caring for her family and the slaves; many early residents of the county relied on her for advice.

The Cardwells lost one son early; their daughter, Evie, married Arthur Burns in 1882. Evie attended Shiner School for Girls at Goliad and studied music under Faupel, a talented musician from Germany.

Austin H. Clegg (1844-1895) was a native of Arkansas. He was only eighteen years old when he joined the Confederate Army at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in June, 1862; he rose to the rank of captain. Soon after the close of the war, he came to live at Port Lavaca, Texas.

Dorah Power (1844-1901) became the wife of Austin H. Clegg in 1870 and the couple farmed in the Mission Valley area. In 1882 Austin and Dorah Clegg bought the former Judge David Murphree home from the son Charles who had inherited it. They also bought other land nearby and were successful in the cattle business.

The Cleggs reared a daughter and three sons. All the group were socially inclined, and their home was a favorite gathering place where young and old enjoyed parties and dances.

Mamie, the oldest of the Clegg children, was born in 1871. She taught school for a number of years and spent her last years in California. George Austin Clegg (1872-1959) was a successful stockman and specialized in polo ponies and race horses. He married Letitia Nichols; they reared a daughter, Christine, and a son, George Bell. Richard Edward Clegg (1876-1959), a farmer and stockman, married Maud Field (1879-1954). The son James

Edward, a World War II veteran, married Velsie Foster (two daughters and his second wife, Belle, live on the Clegg homestead where he raises Hereford cattle. John Henry Clegg (1880-1936), graduate of St. Edwards College at Austin, did clerical work for A. Levi Wholesale Grocery and for Groce-Parrish at Victoria. John Henry and Lillian Roselle Clegg reared five sons--Roselle, Austin, Edward, John Henry, and Frank; the daughter Lillian died at the age of seven years.

James Irven Cottingham (1815-1886) was a native of Mississippi. He and Eliza (first wife) came to Texas in 1850 and lived in the Irish Creek area until about 1854 then moved to Sour Lake, where Eliza died.

Maggie Wallace (1847-1922), sister of Ianthe Wallace Anderson, became Mrs. James Irven Cottingham in 1864. They lived at the lumber port of St. Mary in Refugio County where he was a lumber merchant. In 1876 the parents and their three sons came to live in the Thomaston area where the father was a successful farmer.

Each of the three Cottingham sons was graduated from Texas A&M College. Irven was a long-time Division Engineer of Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio Railroad Lines and later engineer in charge of valuation of Sunset Lines. He married Hester Taylor Kyle in 1892. They had five daughters and two sons. George Cottingham (1886-1941) was auditor of Southern Pacific Lines for many years. He and his wife, nee Mattie Mary Williams, reared four sons. Wesley (b 1871) was an office employee in the engineering department of the Southern Pacific Lines at Houston. Wesley Cottingham married Laura Strickland in 1904 and Edna Barnhart in 1915. There were no children by either marriage.

William Cox (1800-1855), an early DeWitt County resident, married Eliza J. Causey in 1828; she died in 1852. The daughter born to this union, Mary C. Cox, (1827-1860), married Abraham M. Summers in 1843.

Lewis Henry Delony (1824-1901) married the widow Sarah Ann Smith Murphree in 1856 and lived at Clinton. Lewis Henry was well educated being acquainted with French, Spanish, and Latin. He taught in the pioneer schools and was a farmer. He was a Presbyterian elder.

The children of Sarah and Lewis Henry Delony numbered three sons and a daughter; Lewis Smith Delony (1857-1948) was a carpenter at Cuero and Dallas and married Tavy Lee, a widow with several children. The daughter, Mollie Lee, was a graduate nurse in New

York City. The Delony son, William Lewis (1888-1951), married Abbie Powel and had one daughter, Betty Jo. Bettie Delony (1859-1943) married Brinkly Peavy (1859-1892); they had six children. Tom Peavy married Laura Morrow (two sons, Tom and Frank); Annie Bert Peavy married Thomas June Melton (son Thomas June III was a doctor); Ned Peavy married Juel Webster (their daughter Dolores married John H. Meyer, Jr.); Lula Peavy married John A. Martin; John Henry Peavy married Bessie Daniel (their children were Dorothy Jean and John William "Buddy"); William Delony Peavy and his wife, nee Olena Deitrich, have a son, William. William Wiley Delony (1864-1932) was a railroad engineer and married Annie Laura White in 1894; their sons were Henry Davis and William Wiley, Jr. John Murphree "Myrt" Delony (1867-1932) was a teacher and later a farmer. He and his wife, nee Sarah Callaway, had four sons, John Murphree, Jr., William Callaway, Jim Calhoun, and David Lee Delony.

Green C. DeWitt was born in Kentucky in 1787 and settled in Missouri (St. Louis County) by 1819; he was later sheriff of Ralls County. His land grants as empresario were secured from Mexican authorities in 1825. A contemporary reported DeWitt to have been a man: "well acquainted with Indian manners, customs and modes of warfare... his education is considerable and his natural powers of intellect strong and vigorous... he is thought much of as a gentleman (and) like his most excellent Lady is very kind and hospitable to strangers." In 1835 DeWitt journeyed to Monclova to seek completion of land titles; he died there May 18.

Sarah DeWitt Sarah Seely DeWitt (1789-1854) was the heroine of DeWitt County. She was born in Brooks County, Virginia, and moved to Texas from Missouri in 1826. She was a staunch Presbyterian, pioneer leader, advisor to major political chiefs of Early Texas, and designer of the first Texas flag. Her children were Eliza, who married Thomas Hardeman; Maomi, who married W. A. Mathews; Evaline, who married Charles Mason (Secretary of State of the Republic of Texas); Columbus, who married Narcissa Barrow; Clinton, who married Elizabeth Frazier and Minerva, wife of Isham G. Jones.

Dr. James C. Dobbs (d 1952) was married to EBA Horton who graduated from Sam Houston Normal College and completed additional academic work at the University of Texas and the University of Colorado; she was a teacher prior to her marriage. It was soon after World War I that Dr. Dobbs settled in Cuero. He had graduated

from Baylor University and studied medicine in Texas and Tennessee. Dr. Dobbs was a veteran of the 1914-1918 War. Elizabeth Dobbs was the daughter of James and EBA Dobbs.

Jim W. Dolejsi (1879-1954) married Helen Hoefner. Mr. Dolejsi was born in Austin County, Texas. His father was a German immigrant to the state. Jim W. Dolejsi maintained a barber shop in Cuero for many years. The family was affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in that city.

Steve Dunn was an Irish immigrant to Texas and settled as a large land owner in the Yoakum area. His son, Steve, Jr. died in 1926 leaving his widow and two sons, James and Pat. James married Virgie Crocker. Pat married Myrtie Jackson and the couple have three sons and one daughter. Steve, Jr. became a stockman and married Annie Alexander in 1910.

Augustus Washington Eatman Augustus "Gus" W. Eatman (1852-1935) was a native of Alabama. He came to live in the Thomaston area in 1873 and married the widow Bettie Williams Pridgen in 1874. Eatman was a cousin of Bettie's first husband. In 1874 he bought a portion of the Wiley Pridgen estate; the land and home then became known as the Eatman Place. He served as county commissioner from 1896 to 1908.

Two daughters and a son grew up in the Eatman home; Thomas Ochiltree, the youngest child, died of diphtheria at the age of six months; Minnie Mae married Walter B. Calliham; Maggie Lee (1878-1920) married Dr. Ben Maness (their daughters were Esther Lee, Eunice, Bessie, and Willie Ben). There were no children by Maggie's second marriage to John Beard. William Walter Eatman (1881-1936) was an editor and later a farmer. He married Joanna Farrar in 1903. The two sons, Arthur and Joe, are graduates of the University of Texas.

James Edgar James and Selah Witherngton Edgar were the Tennessee parents of nine sons and one daughter who became settlers of DeWitt County. Joseph Smith Edgar, the first born, came to Texas at the age of 19 years, participated in the Battle of San Jacinto and died in the summer of 1836 without having located his colonization grant of a third of a league of land. John, the second Edgar son, came to Texas about 1850, arranged to get his brother's grant "cleared out of the Land Office at Austin" and to have the land located in northeastern DeWitt County.

In 1853 the James and Selah Edgar family settled on this land. The James and Milly Mayes Browns, with six daughters and four

sons, lived nearby. These two groups became closely connected by several marriages. They were also associated with one another in farming and in social, educational, official and religious activities. By and large, they were Methodists and Presbyterians.

Numbers of the Edgars married and reared large families.

John Edgar first wed Mollie Brown, second, the widow Knox (nee Culpepper); third the widow Ellen DeLooch; there were no Edgar children, but John reared the step-son, Thad Knox. Hyman Edgar married Amanda Thrope; their children were Paul, Percy, Thalia, Annretta, Kate, and Bertie. Henry Edgar and his first wife, Anice Morton, had two daughters, Jane and Bammy. Jane Brown married Lem Bachelor; their daughters were Nora (Mrs. Frances Marion Taylor, Sr.) and Tina (Mrs. James King); Bammy Edgar married James and Milly Brown's son, Joe Edgar; their daughter, Lillie Melissa, married Sam Taylor, a relative of F. M. Taylor, Sr. Henry Edgar's second wife was the widow, Jane Brown Davis, daughter of James and Milly Brown; their children were Henry (married Mary Benbow), Eliza (Mrs. Charlie G. Smith), Sarah (Mrs. Thad Knox), Kate (Mrs. Will Guthrie), Kitty, (Mrs. James Killette), and John L. Edgar (married Edith Faulkner). Arthur "Art" Edgar married Harriett Brown; their two sons were Perry and Lee. James D. Edgar wed Martha Jane Hadley and they had two sons; Joseph Smith Edgar married Effie Boothe (four sons) and Christopher "Kit" Edgar first married Tabitha Norton (two sons) and then he married the widow Rosie Schmidt Miller (one daughter). William Edgar's son, William E. Edgar, wed Lou Jacobs and they reared four sons and three daughters. Benjamin Franklin Edgar lived a bachelor's life. Joshua N. and Martha Washington Woward Edgar's two children were Joshua "Josh" and Caledonia. Palina, the only daughter of James and Selah Edgar, married Robert P. Carr; they had two sons and one daughter; the son, James Wesley Carr, married Molly Murphy and their daughter, Mary Murphy Carr, became Mrs. George S. Anderson.

Ernest August Evers Ernest August and Martha Elizabeth Whittington Evers arrived in Victoria from Indianola in 1875 and moved to Cuero about 1887. Mr. Evers served the community as a carpenter. Earl and Rudolph Evers were proprietors of Evers' Brothers Clothing after 1900; Earl married Estelle Coleman, a teacher; Rudolph served as city councilman for twenty-eight years. Dena and Althea were the Evers' daughters. Althea was a teacher. The family was Presbyterian.

Festus Farnsworth (1850-1920) and Ella Moselle Smith (1855-1922)

were married in 1877. They lived in Cuero until 1907 and then moved to San Antonio. Festus and Ella Farnsworth were charter members of the Cuero Presbyterian Church; he was an elder. She was a very active worker. All the sons became Presbyterians.

Festus Farnsworth was born in Iroquois County, Illinois, and arrived in Texas at the age of eight years, living for a time in Victoria. He served as a railroad conductor for a total of fifty years.

Eleven children were born to this marriage. Three died in infancy. The eight sons who grew to maturity were James Ross (1878-1900), Festus Jr. (1880-1938), Leslie Joe (1882-1915), Alex Murphree (1885-1902), Ben Smith (1887-1909), Owen Murphree (1890-1915), William Delony (1890-1918), and David (1894-1960). James Ross died as a result of an insect bite which became infected; Festus, Jr., much traveled as a young man, married Ela Waters and had a daughter, Addie Moselle; Leslie Joe was a railroad employee and married Pearl Conrad in 1911; David married Lucille Weatherby and had one daughter, Lucille Moselle.

George W. Ferguson (1844-1916) was born in Virginia and moved later to Mississippi. He enlisted as a Confederate soldier at the age of 18; he served at Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Lookout Mountain, finally receiving a hip wound and back injury at Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1868 George came to live in the DeWitt County area where he engaged in farming. He married Carrie Amanda Heard (1855-1904) in 1876. They lived near Cuero before they bought their cottage home at Thomaston where he operated a lumber yard. The family were active workers in the Methodist Church. Several capable, highly respected daughters grew up in the Ferguson homes.

Minnie Elva "Miss Minnie" (1878-1952), famous nurse of the 1900 hurricane service at Galveston, contributed her talents as a graduate nurse for fifty years, mostly at Cuero. Anne Ellen (1881-1950) was a teacher in the Kingsville area for fifty years. In 1915 she married John F. Ellis, a widower, and was a kind mother to his five children. Addie Lee, another Ferguson daughter, married Julius W. Sauer in 1915; he died in 1923. Julius and Addie Lee Sauer had two daughters: Crystal Claire, a teacher, married John V. Borkowski; Melva Elise and her husband, Herbert McCurdy, have four sons. Addie Sauer was Cuero librarian and also did practical nursing. Dora Bell, the fourth daughter of George and Carrie Ferguson, was a teacher for many years and married Jeff Porter, a widower with a son and daughter.

William Dyche Finney was born in Mississippi in 1848 and married Florence West. They moved from Wrightsboro to Cuero in 1905. Dr. Finney graduated from the Galveston and Bellevue Medical Schools; prior to his medical training he served in the Confederate Army and drove cattle. Floy, Vida, and Lillian Rebecca were Dr. Finney's three daughters. Floy and Vida were teachers; Lillian Rebecca married Edwin Blockwell.

Daniel Boone Friar (1800-1858) arrived in Texas in the 1830's and settled in Washington County where he was a merchant from 1837 to 1838. The following year he bought 1261 acres in the Sam Lockhart Survey of DeWitt County for \$2500. A two-story house was built near the junction of Cuero Creek and the Guadalupe River; the site was on the La Grange - La Bahia Road and after 1841 when the Gonzales-Victoria Road came into use the Friar home became a major cross-roads stage stop.

Captain Friar's contributions to Texas history are numerous; in 1835-1836 he commanded a group of Rangers stationed between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers; he was later a scout and captain of a volunteer company at the Battle of San Jacinto. As a lieutenant in Captain John J. Tumlinson's company in 1840, D. B. Friar participated in the pursuit of the Comanche band that burned Linnville and was active in the ensuing Battle of Plum Creek. His last years were spent as a stockman in the Yorktown area raising cattle under the Circle T Brand and using Negro slaves for much of the work. In addition to his DeWitt County property D. B. Friar owned land near Waco and Marlin.

Daniel Boone and Ann Graham Friar had a number of children: Sarah, who married William Miskell; Alfred, a veteran of the Mexican War and Civil War; Stephen; Fannie who married Dr. Aaron C. White; Susan, wife of William Weisiger; Mary, who married George Williams; William S. (b 1839); Jack, husband of Cordelia Peace; Julia, who married John H. Shoat; Ella, wife of John Rutledge.

William S. Friar was born in 1839 and married Ann Elizabeth Smith. He operated a stage stop at Yorktown, was a veteran of the Civil War (a prisoner of the United States) and later worked as a trail drover and stockman. William S. Friar was also well known as a South Texas preacher. His children were Alice, who married a Mr. Stone; Anna, who married Rev. Hodgson; John, husband of Mattie Williams; Eva, who married Neal Stribling; Ethel, wife of Sam Harper; William S., Jr.; Herbert H., a Baptist preacher; Sidney Johnston (1862-1931), a cattleman and Presbyterian deacon.

Sidney Johnston Friar was born at Yorktown in 1862. For several years he was a cow hand in the employ of his uncle, John Friar. Sidney J. accumulated enough money to purchase a small

herd of 37 cattle and began his own ranch in 1886 on 320 acres east of the Guadalupe. He lived in a 16'x14' cabin at this time. He increased his herd, prospered and in 1913 sold his brand and built a home south-east of Cuero.

Sidney J. Friar was a Presbyterian deacon and father of Bessie, wife of Robert T. Daniel and mother of one son (Sidney); Elizabeth, wife of Tom W. Schults, and mother of four children (Thomas W. Jr., Alice Ruth "Tudy", Bessie, and Robert Stuart "Bo"); Alfred, a land owner and stockman, who married Anna Nazel (one daughter, Ann, who married Carter Thomas).

William Rochelle Garrett was born in Jackson County, Texas, in 1826. He was the husband of Ataline Rurnett; they were active Presbyterians in Texana, Edna, Beeville, and Cuero. He was a deacon for forty-three years. William Rochelle's parents, Sextus and Julia White Garrett, were members of Austin's Colony. W. R. Garrett served DeWitt County as official surveyor and as manager of an abstract business.

Bernice Garrett, daughter of William R. and Ataline Garrett, became the wife of Ira Wilkes. Julia, another daughter, married John Pettus. David B. Garrett, her brother, died in 1913 at the age of 26 as a result of accidental injuries. Two other Garrett sons were Sextus and William Rochelle, Jr.

William J. Glass was a native of Pennsylvania; he was born in 1818 and married Fidelia Stevens. From 1850-1856 William J. Glass taught school and then became a college president at Seguin. He later operated a one-teacher school at Concrete until 1861. In addition to his duties as an educator he raised cattle on a 1400 acre tract east of Hochheim. There were eight children in the Glass family. Kate, a daughter, married James Baker North.

Mr. Gruener In 1852 Mr. Gruener settled in Indianola. His children were Elizabeth, who married Christopher Wunderlich; Dora, who married Charles Wunderlich; Carlene, who married August Fuhrmann. The last marriage produced Mary Fuhrmann, a Cuero Lutheran who married August Franke. There were three Franke daughters: Mamie (Mrs. L. B. Yoas), Dora (Mrs. Walter Brown McClung) and Agnes (Mrs. Henry Spangle). One son, Charlie was born to the Franke couple.

Alex Hamilton, a Clinton and later Cuero merchant, married Annie Thornton, daughter of Dr. William Green Thornton, a pioneer physician of Victoria County. Annie was a devout and active Cuero

Presbyterian. Alex Hamilton was the organizer and president of county's first national bank. He was also founder and president of the Cuero Cotton Oil and Manufacturing Company (begun about 1890). It was on his ranch that the first registered Hereford cattle were introduced to DeWitt County. Mr. Hamilton is also credited with the construction of the county's first dipping vat.

Thornton, Alex (1880-1952), and Le Roy Hamilton were sons of Alex and Annie Hamilton. Thornton married Mary Agnes Graham, daughter of DeWitt County pioneers; their children were Ann, Mary, and Graham. Alex, recognized as one of the most capable and skilled of South Texas cattlemen, married Claire Wofford; their children were Alex and Frances. Le Roy Hamilton married Dorothy Burns. He served as mayor of Cuero and as a president of the Buchel National Bank.

Buckner Harris was a citizen of Mississippi where he served as a member of the legal profession and as district judge. After migrating to Texas in 1846 he raised cattle and farmed using a number of Negro slaves. In 1848 he purchased 1125 acres of Amadore Survey land; in 1850, 1040 additional acres were purchased. Buckner Harris and his daughter Julia and son-in-law James Andrew Houston, lived in a home built on the easternmost of these tracts until 1852. Harris sold his DeWitt County holdings in 1854 and settled in Gonzales County. His son, Augustus D. Harris, married Mary Ann Houston.

Humphrey Heard barely escaped death as a youngster at the hands of Indians near Fort Mims, Georgia. He, his mother (Nancy Heard) and brother, Wiley, were present at the time of a massacre at Ft. Mims. A Mrs. Merrill, friend of the Heard family, and her young son were scalped and survived their injuries; both were found after Mrs. Merrill secreted her wounded son in a hollow log. The boy grew to maturity and wore a wig.

Humphrey Heard moved from Florida to Texas in 1852; he lived at Cannan in Victoria County for two years and then settled at Mission Valley living in a home on the wagon road from the coast. The Heard home in Mission Valley was a stop over noted for its hospitality. In 1872 Heard moved to Thomaston and his home there was used as a Sunday School and meeting place for several years.

In 1867 Humphrey Heard was licensed to exhort and thereafter preached at Clinton, Thomaston, and Middletown as a Methodist. Louisa Ellen Foster (d 1903) was the wife of Humphrey Heard. They had four sons and five daughters: Joel (1840-1920); Jasper; Allen C.; Lee; Hannah (1849-1917); Caroline (1855-1903); Mary Ann (1843-1925); Ellen (1860-1890); Addie.

Joel Benjamin married Lucretia Ballou and farmed acreage west

of the Guadalupe River near Heard Bridge. They had two daughters, Alice and Mamie, and one son, Will. Alice married Rondle Mahon; Will married Genie Schaefer.

Mamie Heard, after the death of her father in 1920, managed the ranch, rode the pasture, and was respected as a skillful Hereford cattle raiser. Even after confinement in a hospital she managed the ranch through her niece, Eldnor and her husband, Ed Thigpen. "Miss Mamie" was a devoted Presbyterian who left a bequest of \$12,000 to the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero.

Jasper N. Heard was an early pioneer of Pecos, Texas, and lost his life as a result of a riding accident. Hannah Heard married James D. McMaster in 1879; Bertie, Carrie, and Nora were their children. Caroline "Carrie" became the wife of George W. Ferguson in 1855 (their daughter Minnie was a Cuero nurse). Minnie's sisters were Annie, Addie, and Dora. Mary Ann married Murdock William McRae in 1860 and Ellen married Bennie Daughtery.

Joel H. Heard (1788-1868) married Nancy Gilmore (d 1848) in 1808. Joel H. was an orphan living with his uncle first in Georgia and later in Alabama. About 1849 he moved to Texas and settled at Port Lavaca and then Victoria where he married Lucinda Jones.

Joel H. Heard's father was the grandson of John Heard who migrated to Virginia from Ireland in 1719. His mother was Mary Meadow. Joel H. was a veteran of the Battle of New Orleans 1815. Joel H. and Nancy Gilmore Heard had many children: Wiley (b 1808) died in 1810; Humphrey (1811-1895); William McRae (b 1814); John (b 1815); George Washington (b 1817); Mary M. (b 1819); Joel (b 1821); Allen Jackson (1823-1916); Edwin (b 1825); Tom Clinton (1827-1905). Allen Jackson married Martha Busby and died at Refugio; he was very likely the oldest living Mason in Texas at the time of his death. Tom Clinton married Mary C. Busby. Joel H. Heard's second marriage to Lucinda Jones produced Ollie (1853-1929), Ida (1854-1907), James Holmes (1856-1934), and Eula Annie (b 1860). Ollie married John Munn. Ida married Clark Denton. James H. married Josephine St. John and Eula became the wife of John Henry Dorsey.

Robert B. Houston was a native of North Carolina who settled in Mississippi and after 1846 came to Texas. He was a farmer and stockman, owning slaves. There were two sons and one daughter born to Robert B. Houston. James Andrew Houston attended Oxford University in Mississippi and married Julia A. Harris. James Andrew and Julia were the parents of William Buckner Houston who was born in 1852. William Buckner, who married first Ada Lewis and later Sue L. Jones, was a prominent rancher in the Panhandle and Pecos

regions of Texas. John M. and Mary Ann Houston were the other children of Robert B. Houston.

Judge David Irvin was born in 1798 in Albermarle County, Virginia. After studying the law he was later appointed as territorial judge in Wisconsin. This appointment was very likely a consequence of the influence of a mutual friend of Judge Irvin and President Andrew Jackson. While in Wisconsin Judge Irvin accumulated considerable holdings in land near Mineral Point.

"He had a retentive memory and was a close and discriminate observer. . . . He had a keen relish for field sports, and felt a particular interest in his horse, his dog and his gun. . . . He used to say that 'his horse, Pedro, had more sense than any lawyer in his court'."

Judge Irvin never lost his love for the South and all things southern. He came to the Prices Creek region in 1853 because of political developments in the north and it was on a tract of Amadore Survey land that he raised the fine horses so much in demand in the area. The judge's correspondence reflects wide acquaintances and interests.

In 1870, on account of ill health, he moved to Victoria where he owned a fine home and several acres of land (the present Callender House of Victoria). The judge had always been fond of his niece, Sallie Sangster who lived with him at Prices Creek while teaching for two years in the community school there. Miss Sangster married William Larrabee Callender of Mission Valley and inherited the home and property in Victoria. Mr. Callender was a major contributor to South Texas jurisprudence. Judge Irvin died in Victoria in 1872.

Jesse Wilburn Jackson was born in 1885 and died in 1956. He married Hattie Adelle Lloyd in 1918. He attended Texas A&M College where he prepared for his later career as an employee of the Texas Experimental Station and county agent in several counties including DeWitt. Jesse's father was Perry Jackson of Georgia.

The Jesse Jacksons were Presbyterians; he was an elder. There were five Jackson Children: Wilburn Hoyt married Kathryn Howard (two children); Myrtie became Mrs. Pat Dunn (four children); Mary and her husband, Howard Kleinecke, have five children; Perry Lloyd married Myrtle Wachtendorf (two sons); Kathryn first married James Hollenabe (two children) and married second Robert Gohlke (one child).

John Bernard Johnston was born in 1876 and settled in Cuero about 1911 where he operated the Cuero Steam Laundry for forty years. He was a much respected Presbyterian who belonged to several lodges and loved the sport of fishing. He died in 1952 and was survived by a daughter, Grace Brown, and son, Harold A. Johnston.

R. Lee Joseph and his wife, Lily Thornton Joseph, established their home in Cuero about 1889 after living for a time in Galveston. A Presbyterian deacon, Mr. Joseph was first an employee and later president of the First State Bank of Cuero. In 1916 the family relocated in San Antonio. Edgar Joseph and Donald Lee Joseph, author and professor in the University of Texas, were sons of R. Lee and Lily Thornton Joseph.

Major James Kerr (1790-1850) was born in Kentucky and after serving in the War of 1812, became sheriff in St. Charles County, Missouri. He was later a delegate to the lower and upper houses of the State Legislature of Missouri.

It was James Kerr who laid out the town site of Gonzales and acted as agent for Green DeWitt. James Kerr married Sarah Fulton, a foster daughter of John J. Linn. Kerr spent his last years practicing medicine and died in Jackson County.

Robert Justus Kleberg was born September 10, 1803 in Germany--died October 23, 1888 at Yorktown, Texas. His parents were Lucas and Veronica Kleberg. He received a diploma of "Doctor of Juris" at the University of Goettingen. After his marriage to Rosa von Roeder they joined a group of immigrants leaving Germany on September 30, 1834. The ship on which they traveled was wrecked off Galveston island in December, 1834. The Klebergs settled at Cat Springs, Texas in the fall of 1835.

Robert Justus Kleberg served in the Texas Revolution and participated in the Battle of San Jacinto. While the Kleberg family was on the "Runaway Scrape", the home at Cat Springs was ravaged. After the Revolution, the Klebergs moved to a home on Galveston Island. In 1837-1838 Kleberg was president of the Board of Land Commissioners. He was chief justice in Austin County in 1846 before he moved to DeWitt County in 1847. He served as DeWitt County judge 1852-1855 and as district clerk 1876-1879.

Robert Justus and Rosa von Roeder Kleberg were the parents of Rudolph and of Robert Justus, Jr., who married Alice Gertrudis King and later managed King Ranch for Mrs. King. The father Robert Justus Kleberg, was buried in the family cemetery in western DeWitt County. In 1936, the Texas Centennial Commission placed a marker at his grave.

Rudolph Kleberg (1847-1924) grew to manhood at Cuero; entered Civil War service at the age of seventeen years, and graduated from Concrete College in 1868. He was admitted to the bar in 1872 and

began his practice at Cuero. He established the Cuero Star in 1873 and edited it for four years. He was county attorney of DeWitt County from 1876 to 1880; he was elected state senator in 1882 and served in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Legislatures; he served as United States attorney in the western District of Texas from served 1885 to 1896. From 1896 to 1903 he was United States Congressman. He then resumed his law practice in Texas, and served as DeWitt County Judge from 1908 to 1912.

He and his wife, Mathilda Eckhardt, had five children.

Louis Kleinecke settled at Cuero in 1878 and served that community for fifty years as a dentist. He distinguished himself at Indianola after the storm of 1886 by wading quite a distance through water more than knee-deep to recover the Presbyterian Church silver communion service from the home of his aunt, Caroline Fuhrman.

The Kohuteks The Kohutek family was the last family to occupy the old log house built by Buckner Harris which served the McDonalds for fifty-six years. Adam Kohutek was a native of Czechoslovakia who migrated to America in early manhood. His wife, Julia, was a native Texan. Adam was a farmer and also conducted a gravel business for a number of years at Thomaston. Ten children grew up in the Adam and Julia Kohutek home.

Andy Kohutek married Millie Tarleake; Frank married Emma Buchanek; John married Julia Chueck; Mary died in early womanhood; Albert married the widow Lottie Lee Dedear; Julia married Calvin Adcock; Adam married Lucy Adcock; Willie married Valasta Tarcat; Effie married Bruce Neatherland; Jim married Alfreda Fuchs.

William Peter Le Galley (1835-1897) was born and grew up on the Isle of Guernsey in the English Channel. He married Jane Ann Bates (1831-1915) about 1850; they and their six children came to America in 1870 and lived in Missouri before coming to the Thomaston area where he farmed and raised cattle from 1876 to 1885. The family later lived at Terrville and then on a farm near Cuero.

Harry Le Galley, a son of William and Jane Ann Le Galley, moved from the DeWitt County area about 1919. The other children remained. Celia became Mrs. Jimmie McDonald; they lived at Thomaston where he farmed and later at Cuero. This couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1933. Their children were James Albert, Myrtle, Lou, Ruth, Laura Mae, Gladys, and James.

Olivia "Lovie" (1861-1945) married Marshall Myers (1855-1893); their children were Percy and Annie (Mrs. George Randolph), a teacher. Eliza (Mrs. Dowe) continues as the only survivor of the

Le Galley children (1961). Reuben married and had a daughter. Walter and Gay Bates Le Galley had a daughter Janie (Mrs. Ted Harwood) and a son who died while in his teens.

The Lockharts Byrd, Andrew, Sam, and Charles Lockhart and their two sisters, Drusilla and Margaret, were native Virginians and moved to Missouri in 1818. They came to Texas with Green DeWitt's early colonists in 1825.

Byrd Lockhart's wife was a Barton, sister of his brother Charles' wife, Catherine. He was a widower with five children when he came to Texas. Byrd surveyed much of the land of DeWitt's Colony. He "scientifically delineated and marked off roads in order to facilitate travel and stimulate the internal commerce of Gonzales County." In 1828 he cleared timber and laid out a road, via Gonzales, from Bexar to Austin; later another road from Gonzales to Matagorda Bay was laid out by Byrd Lockhart. Byrd Lockhart died in 1839.

Andrew Lockhart was a married man with nine children when he settled, in 1829, west of the Guadalupe River on his grant of a league. His sons, John B. and Washington, each received a grant of a quarter-league. It seems probable that the Andrew Lockhart family moved from the DeWitt County area soon after the daughter Matilda was stolen by Comanche Indians in 1838.

Sam Lockhart, his wife Winney, and their three children settled on his grant in the Cuero Creek area in 1830. Deed records show that "Winney Robertson, former wife of Sam Lockhart (deceased), sold 1261 acres of the Sam Lockhart Survey to Daniel Boone Friar on September 31, 1839."

Charles Lockhart (1798-1844) married Catherine Wise Barton. Three of the six children born in Missouri died before the family moved to Texas in 1825 to live in Gonzales County; there were four Texas-born children. Both parents died in 1844. The son Kimber died soon thereafter. In 1847 the Charles Lockhart estate was partitioned among the six surviving children: William B. (married Jane Cotton); Margaret (Mrs. James Aldridge); Charles Louis (married Celia Williams); Jane Louisa (Mrs. Dave Hunter); Sarah Elizabeth (Mrs. James Wilson); Mary Melvina (Mrs. John Patton Wright).

The Charles Lockhart headright league of land was located in the Prices Creek area of DeWitt County. In the partitioning of the estate, portions of it were allotted to Charles Louis, Jane Louise, Sarah Elizabeth, and Mary Melvina.

Drusilla Lockhart was born in Virginia in 1802, came with her four brothers to live at Gonzales in 1825, and married Eben Haven in 1831. John DuBose was one of her grandsons.

Margaret, the other Lockhart sister who came to Texas in 1825, married Kimber Barton, the only brother of Catherine who married

Charles Lockhart. In 1835 the Kimber Bartons were managing a hotel at Gonzales. Their only child was a daughter, Jane.

Francis J. Lynch (1815-1897) was born in Cork, Ireland. He came to America in 1835 and settled first at Brandon, Mississippi, and in 1853 in DeWitt County. Mr. Lynch was trained in the law at Dublin, Ireland, and practiced at Charleston, South Carolina, an experience which prepared him for service in the Mississippi State Legislature. Captain Lynch was commissioned in the Confederate service and before the Civil War operated a plantation, Valley View, on the west bank of the Guadalupe River using Negro slaves. He was later a legislator and delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1875.

Mary Lewis was the first wife of Francis Lynch. She died soon after arriving in DeWitt County leaving her children, Katharine, Hibernia, Eliza, Ruth, Cornelia, "Nealy", and Mary Ellen Lynch. Hibernia "Bernie" married Thad Brownson; their daughters were Agnes Brownson (Mrs. Patton Caldwell) and Jessie. Eliza Ruth became the wife of Dr. Patrick Henry, a Cuero physician; their son was Temple and a daughter, Mamie Kate. Mary Ellen was married to Dr. James M. Thompson, for twenty-three years a physician at Meyersville and later Cuero; their daughters were Nell and Kate; the son, Frank married Gertrude Smith.

Francis J. Lynch's second wife was Mrs. H. E. Harris, a widow; one son, Kirkland "Kirk," was born to this marriage. Kirkland married Mamie Van Roeder and operated a hardware business at Westhoff.

Eliza Friend, a sister of William R. Friend, was the third wife of Francis J. Lynch. Jeanie, the daughter of this marriage, became the wife of Jim Wimbush. While the parents of Francis J. Lynch were Catholic, he and his family were Presbyterians.

The McCrabbs John McCrabb (1798-1848) was born in Ireland and married Mary Miller. He moved from Tennessee to the Thomaston area in 1828. He served as district clerk (1838-1841) and also as a county official in both DeWitt and Victoria Counties. John discovered the famous murder of John McSherry in 1829 and served at San Jacinto. There were two sons, Joseph Alexander and John Frederick, and two daughters, Mary Jane and Susan Elizabeth, born to the couple. Associated families were the Pridgens, Browns, and Gees.

John Frederick McCrabb (1846-1909) was the son of John McCrabb. John Frederick "Buck" married Cora Augustine; he was born in DeWitt County was a rancher of means (7,000 acres and 1200 head of beeves in 1894). He served in Hudson's Company of Confederate Independent Scouts, on the Rio Grande at the age of 17. His death resulted in 1909 when runaway horses overturned his wagon.

Mary Elizabeth, "Buck" McCrabb's daughter, was born in Cuero in 1883, attended the San Antonio Female College, and married James Baker Atkinson. John Samuel, "Buck's" son, was born in 1885, engaged in farming and ranching and married Gladys Estelle Brown; their children were Jessie, who married E. H. Houchins, John Frederick, who married Mary Louise Boothe, and May Lee, who married F. A. "Penny" Mood.

Joseph Alexander "Joe" McCrabb (1836-1885), a son of John and Mary Miller McCrabb, married Sarah Jane McDonald, a daughter of William McDonald and his first wife, nee Lucy Ann Connegan; she died at the early age of thirty-four. The children of Joseph Alexander were: John William "Buddy," who was born in 1870 and after attending Southwestern University at Georgetown, became a cattleman and married Annie Brown; their sons were Joseph and Tyson McCrabb. Mary Jane McCrabb was born in 1868, attended Nash Academy and the Nazareth Academy and married William E. Pridgen. There were ten children born to the marriage: Joe; Mabel; John; Wiley; Everett; Annie; Cora; McCrabb; James (died in infancy) and Tom. Annie McCrabb, born 1873, married Tom Tyson; their son was Silas. Annie later married Victor La Bouve. Joseph "Jodie" McCrabb, born 1876, died at the age of sixteen years. The Joseph McCrabbs were Methodists.

William D. McCurdy (1881-1941) was born at Lockhart and lived near Cuero after his marriage to Caroline "Carrie" Overton Brown (1884-1959) in 1906. As a farmer he served for a number of years on the DeWitt County School Board. The family was affiliated with the Cuero Presbyterian Church. "Will" was an elder for thirty-one years and was a longtime Sunday School superintendent. Carrie was an active member for sixty years. She was a patient, cheerful invalid for a number of years prior to her death.

The Will McCurdys reared a son and four daughters. Jim became a stock-farmer with turkey production as a secondary interest. He married Virginia Rich, a teacher, about 1939; their adopted sons, John and Robert, had the opportunity of growing up in a fine Christian home. Mary Beth McCurdy, a longtime office employee of the Ferguson store at Cuero, married W. E. "Dick" Poth in 1956; he suffered a fatal heart attack in 1960. Evelyn McCurdy married Tom Cates in 1941 (two daughters). Annie McCurdy, hospital dietician in World War II, was married in 1945 to John Hunt who had served in the Air Corps (two sons). Dorothy McCurdy married J. Allen Briley, an oil company employee (two daughters).

John McDonald (1793-1854) was born in South Carolina. As a youth he

moved to Brandon, Mississippi, and finally to the Prices Creek section of DeWitt County in 1852. John and Charlotte Collins McDonald and their sons (William, John, Jim, and Charles) made the trip to Texas in mule-drawn wagons. The daughter Sarah Ann (Mrs. Caswell Tate) remained in Mississippi. In December, 1852, John McDonald paid Buckner Harris \$4,000 in cash for 1040 acres of Amadore Survey land and a log house in which the McDonalds took up their abode. John McDonald died in 1854. By 1878 the son Jim had bought out the interests of the other heirs and was owner of the 1040 acres of land and the log house. Mother Charlotte spent much time with her daughter in Mississippi and died there in 1871.

William, the oldest McDonald son, brought his wife, nee Lucy Ann Donnegan, and daughters, Lucy Charlotte and Sarah Jane, with him when he came to Texas in 1852; the wife died in 1853. William married the widow Cynthia Shults Sutton in 1856 and they had a daughter, Mollie. John William (1825-1859), the second McDonald son, had married Leah Kirsh (1832-1858) before coming to Texas; they lived at Clinton where he was a merchant. The daughter Laura Eudora, born in June, 1853, married William "Bill" Sutton.

James "Jim" Albert McDonald married Ann John Ferguson; they reared a large family in the parental log house. Charles Edward was the youngest of the four McDonald sons; he was a farmer near Clinton and married Hannah Lampley about 1860; their children were John, Floy, Mary, Bettie, Eddie (a daughter), Lee, and Charles. The family moved to Pearsall about 1880.

James Albert McDonald James "Jim" Albert McDonald (1830-1920) suffered a serious illness at the age of twelve years. His father had a coffin made for the impending death of his son, but Jim recovered and the coffin was used to inter a friend of Jim's.

Jim came with his parents and brother, William, John and Charlie, from Brandon, Mississippi, to live in a log house on a tract of 1040 acres of land which his father purchased in the Prices Creek area of DeWitt County. The McDonalds settled there in December, 1852.

Jim began farming in the spring; his father John died in 1854, and his mother Charlotte and the brothers soon sold their interests in the land and home to Jim. He returned to Brandon in December, 1858, to marry his sweetheart Ann John Ferguson (1837-1912) and bring her to his Texas home.

Jim and Ann McDonald faced and overcame the hardships of their day and at the same time reared a large family. While he served in the Confederate cavalry (1862-1865), she superintended and encouraged the Negro slaves in carrying on the farm work. Jim left home on "old Buck" and used the horse as a cavalry mount

during service in the Mississippi Valley. Jim returned home on May 5, 1865, after a long and arduous ride.

After a period of recuperation following the Civil War, Jim took up his chores as a farmer and stockman. Jim and Ann lived in their log home for fifty years during which time two daughters and five sons grew to maturity, married and left the parental home. One son died in infancy. In December, 1908, the McDonalds celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Mary Ellen (1860-1956) was the oldest of the eight McDonald children. When she was less than one day old, her aunt, Mary Rogers, placed in her hand a silver dollar which was coined in 1799. Mary treasured this gift through the years and in 1920 presented this dollar with its history to the Witte Museum in San Antonio. She attended Mrs. Case's school at Victoria for three years and was editor of the weekly school paper. She was a life-long Presbyterian and married Dr. John Paul Williamson who received his dental degree at Tulane University. He died at the San Antonio home in 1917.

The six Williamson children were Daisy, who married Flavius J. Cornett; Pauline (Mrs. James Arthur Webb) had one son, James Arthur, Jr., "Pat"; Sarah B., was a long-time teacher and principal in the San Antonio schools; Ann, an Army nurse in World War I, married Bob Floyd; Rowena married John Kemp Hobson (they were Presbyterian missionaries in the Belgian Congo from 1920-1949); John Albert Williamson, graduate of Texas A&M, married Eleanor Fitch and was a prominent businessman in San Antonio (they had two sons and a daughter).

James Albert McDonald, Jr. (1862-1938), farmer and stockman at Thomaston and later near Cuero, married Celia Le Galley in 1883. They had seven children and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary; they were killed in an automobile accident in 1938.

The son, William Albert (b 1885), graduated from Texas A&M and married Jean Lockwood. Myrtle McDonald (b 1888) married Lyle T. Phillips; they have two sons. Lou McDonald (b 1890) married Allen C. Laster in 1920. He was killed in an automobile collision in 1934, and he was survived by his wife, four sons, and a daughter. Ruth McDonald (b 1892) married William Oscar Thigpen in 1921; they have a daughter and a son. Laura Mae McDonald (b 1897) married Le Roy Morgan Williams in 1932 (one son). Bessie McDonald (b 1900) died at the age of four years. Gladys McDonald (b 1906) married E. Brown Yearly ; they have one daughter. James Albert McDonald III married Helen Ross in 1938; they have a daughter.

Sarah Ann McDonald (1866-1924) attended school and joined the Thomaston Methodist Church. She married William "Bill" E. Collins (1861-1924) in 1884. He was a farmer and later a building contractor. Eleven children grew up in their home. Julia Collins

(1886-1960) married Benjamin Ohman (four children); Robert "Bob" Collins (b 1888), a building contractor at Tyler and later at Victoria, married Mayce Williams, and they had three daughters: Sarah Collins (b 1893) married Herman Brunson; Corrine Collins (b 1895) became Mrs. Lloyd Wright; Ellen Collins (b 1897) married Marcell Lewis; Frances Collins (b 1899) remained single; Donald Grant Collins (b 1901) married Sarah Pasey (one son, Lt. Richard Wallace Collins); William "Bill" Collins (b 1904) married Opal Grace Murphy (one daughter); Mary Collins (b 1907) became Mrs. Leon Rogers (one son); Jack Collins (1909-1949) married Eileen Graham (three children).

John William McDonald (1868-195-) was an early day farmer and later public worker. He married Nina Watkins (1873-1935) in 1894; they lived at Thomaston until 1920 and then moved to Edna. They were the parents of five children: Leonard McDonald (b 1896) married Cora Pridgen (one daughter); John William, Jr; Agnes McDonald; Dorothy McDonald (b 1905) married Lloyd Billstein and had one son; Harrell "Pete" McDonald married Bernette _____ in 1945.

Charlie McDonald (1872-1932) attended Southwestern University at Georgetown. He was a fireman and later engineer on the Southern Pacific Railroad; he married Lizzie King. Their sons were Joe, Frank, and Arthur. Joe was a prominent doctor at Kerrville.

Henry Ferguson McDonald (1874-1946) was a farmer until about 1900, then a merchant at Thomaston, and later at San Antonio. Henry married Alice Pridgen in 1897. They moved to Austin from San Antonio about 1940.

Joseph Benjamin "Ben" McDonald (1883-1941) attended the Thomaston school and Texas Military Academy at San Antonio. He was an office employee of a railroad company at Victoria, then a merchant, and finally a salesman. Ben married Theresa Marie Jecker in 1905. They made their home in Victoria. The family was Catholic.

Louise Antoinette (b 1906) was the oldest of the nine children of Ben and Theresa McDonald (she married Hans Henry Ernst in 1928); James Dessia McDonald (b 1908) and his wife Marjorie had three daughters; Katherine Nell (b 1909) became Mrs. Chester William Evans (one son and one daughter); Marie Theresa (b 1911) married Joseph Donald Cohen in 1931 (one daughter and one son); Joseph Benjamin, Jr. (b 1914) became a pharmacist; Marjorie Joyce (b 1915) became Mrs. Garland Elisha Moody in 1940 (one daughter); Ann John (b 1916) married Merlyn Clarence Goldman in 1940 (one son); Louis Francis "L. F." (b 1918) served in the second World War; Leslie Charles (b 1920) married Patricia Marguerite Hunt in 1941 (they had two sons)

Dr. William A. McLeod, a much respected Presbyterian clergyman of Cuero for twenty-eight years, arrived in DeWitt County in 1919. He was very soon in possession of an enviable collection of local historical materials. Dr. McLeod's contributions to the social, spiritual, and historical conscience of the county are far too numerous and profound to account for here. Mrs. McLeod, nee Mattie Vinson, endeared herself to the people of Cuero; the son, William Angus, Jr., became a lawyer.

David Brown McManus (1869-1944) was born at Terryville and married Kate Stone (1872-1953). He attended Terryville and Thomaston schools and organized, in 1896, the McManus Trading Company with R. L. Groce and John H. Clegg as officers. The couple was active in Presbyterian and Baptist Church work; he was a deacon and she was an organist for both the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. Mrs. McManus later managed the dry goods department of the McManus business. One son, David Stone, was born to the couple.

William Jasper McManus (1840-1918) was born in Mississippi and arrived in Texas in 1854. He married the widow Harriet Elizabeth Brown in 1867. "Jap" and Harriet McManus had five children (Dede, Mollie, Josie, Dudley, and Dalton). Their children and three orphaned nieces (Ola, Katie, and Dovie Ferber) of Mr. McManus, grew up along with Minnie Edgar, Mrs. McManus' granddaughter in the Thomaston home.

William J. McManus joined Ford's Regiment of the Texas Rangers in 1861 and was stationed on the Rio Grande; in 1862 he enlisted in Colonel C. L. Pyron's Regiment of the Confederate Army and rose to the rank of first lieutenant. A year later he served as Provost Marshall at San Antonio.

Following the Civil War, William J. McManus settled at Terryville and then in 1885 at Thomaston where he purchased James J. Moore's gin and mill. He held a county commissioner's place and was also the Thomaston postmaster as well as a Presbyterian elder and community worker. The children of William Jasper and Harriet McManus were: David "Dede" Brown (1869-1944); Mary Ann "Mollie" (1870-1951); Dudley Cullen (1876-1951); Josephine "Josie" Charlotte (1873-1924) and Dolton Edward (1878-1935).

David Brown was a Thomaston merchant and ginner. Mary Ann married Robbie Wright. Dudley Cullen married Annie Lee Wyatt (one son and three daughters). Josephine married Dr. James E. Pridgen (one daughter, Jewell), and Dolton Edward married Lizette Leuschner (one daughter, Lois).

James D. McMaster (1841-1924) was born in Mississippi and moved first to Victoria and then to Thomaston after the death of his first wife. In the Thomaston community he farmed and took an active interest in community projects. He and his first wife, Sarah Wyatt Barnes McMaster (1841-1877), had eight sons and one daughter: Eugene L. ; James A. ; John Everette; Will Kennon; Milton J. ; George T. ; Robert E. "Dock"; Oscar F. ; Sallie (Mrs. John Henry Thornton of Jackson, Mississippi).

James D. McMaster later married Hannah Heard (1849-1917) and reared three daughters: Mary Roberta "Bertie" (Mrs. Joe Holebehe); Carrie Isabella (Mrs. Alvin Farrow); and Nora Ellen (Mrs. Tom McCoy). The McMaster descendants were and are ranchers, teachers, professionals, and graduates of several colleges. The Methodist faith was common to many of them.

Archibald McRae The McRae family was of sturdy Scottish ancestry. Archibald and Vincy Williams McRae and their children came to Texas from Florida in 1836 when the Indians still roamed the prairies. He died at Victoria in 1851; his wife died in 1894 at the age of 93 years, having outlived all her children.

Murdock William McRae (1840-1889), youngest son of Archibald McRae, was a ship builder who fulfilled many government contracts for vessels used along the Gulf Coast. He married Mary Ann Heard (1843-1925). She moved to Cuero in 1896 and in 1905 returned to the coast. Earlier she had contributed to the southern cause making uniforms, socks, and sweaters, a task she also undertook during World War I. There were six daughters born to the Presbyterian family: Josephine Alice "Josie" (1863-1950) married Sam D. Bennet and was active in the DAR, Colonial Dames of the XVIII Century and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (she received a certificate for a contribution to American genealogy); Mattie McRae married a widower, Mr. Hill; Ella became the wife of Henry E. Clay of Yoakum and Refugio; Agnes Henrietta "Etta," a long-time nurse; Ruth Elizabeth (1875-1946) married Floyd Buchel; Marie Alice (1877-1907) became the wife of James Clark Herring.

Henrietta McRae Henrietta "Etta" McRae (1873-1917) was born at Lamar, Texas, and attended the Nash Academy. She was a teacher for two years and later a nurse at Salome Hospital serving with Dr. Joe H. Reuss. She also worked on the staff of John Sealy Hospital at Galveston. In 1898 Henrietta McRae nursed the victims of a typhoid epidemic in Florida and then, as a U. S. Army nurse, served at Camp Columbia in Cuba. Nurse McRae's career then carried her

to New York, back to Cuero in 1899, and in 1900 to the Far East during the "Boxer Rebellion." In 1902, she was in Manila and by 1904 back as superintendent at Salome Hospital in Cuero. A year later she followed Dr. Reuss to Dallas as a superintendent of nurses. She died in 1917 at Brownwood where her talents were much appreciated while superintending the Brownwood Infirmary.

Joseph Benjamin Milligan was born in Florida in 1852 and arrived in Texas in the early 1860's. As a youth, he attended Concrete College and later made nine cattle drives north to Abilene and other rail terminals. He later became a stockman. About 1882 he married Mollie Marsh at Cuero. There were five children born to the Milligans: Elma (b 1886) married Otto Key (there were two sons, Earle and Joe Woodrow); Johnnie (b 1888) married Walter Eugene "Buster" Steen, a farmer (the six Steen children were Conley Clarence, Norman Spencer, Patricia Mae, Forrest Victoria, Vince Bordman, and Buster); Tom Milligan married Magora Dean Brooks (their children were Tommie, Dorothy and Joe Wayne, a World War II casualty).

Mollie Milligan died in 1895, and Joseph married Mary Elizabeth Barth Manuel (there was one Manuel son, Irven). Barth Milligan (b 1897) was the oldest of the Joe and Mary Elizabeth children. He received his medical degree from Texas University and has conducted an extensive practice at Austin; he married Willie Carswell in 1925 (Barth Milligan, Jr., also a doctor, is associated with Dr. Zidd in Austin). William "Bill" Milligan (b 1900), farmer and stockman, married Nan Hawk, a grade-school teacher at Cuero; they live in the Milligan parental home. Claudia Mae Milligan, a teacher with a master's degree, had a daughter, Mary Lou, by her first husband, Sam D. Kelly. She later married Zelman Sample. Mary Milligan (1906) primary teacher at Cuero with a master's degree, married Joe David Fannett, railroad roadmaster; they have two daughters, Jo Beth and Mary Blanche. Blanche Milligan, teacher with a master's degree, married Arthur M. Green, lawyer, in 1941; the two children are Sarah Blanche and Arthur M., Jr.

Since Joseph and Mary Elizabeth Barth Manuel both contributed by former marriages to their own family, the number of youngsters was large and the associations often amusing as evidenced by the remark made by Mrs. Milligan that "your children and my children are fussing with our children." Among the many members of the Milligan clan one finds an impressive number of university and college graduates, several of whom completed graduate degrees and contributed to their communities in various professional callings.

James Hollis Moore (1844-1924) married first (1866) Virginia Lou Thomas (1848-1891). She was the daughter of Nathan Thomas who was born in Tennessee and lived later in Washington and Fayette Counties. Nathan Thomas served in the Texas Congress and in 1845 purchased 1190 acres of the Amadore Survey for \$666; this property was given to his daughter.

James Hollis Moore's father, Thomas, married Martha Hollis. He was an active politician and planter of Mississippi; he served in the Mississippi Legislature and the Secession Convention of Texas in 1860. As a Fayette County Methodist he was known for his generosity to Civil War widows and orphans. In later life he lost his eyesight but remained socially active.

The paternal grandfather of James H. Moore was born in South Carolina and moved to Mississippi where he became a prosperous planter. James H. Moore's maternal grandfather, John Hollis, was a wealthy planter of Alabama.

It was in 1872 that James H. Moore arrived at Thomaston and built his home; he began to teach the community's first public school in 1874. He farmed and operated a gin and mill where posts and shingles were cut from native oak.

During the Civil War he served in the Henry E. McCullough Brigade at Milligan's Bend, Mansfield, and Pleasant Hill where he was wounded.

Mattie Shanks Reed (1853-1901), a widow, was James H. Moore's second wife; they were married in 1895. His third wife, Lizzie Shanks, (d 1938) became Mrs. Moore in 1903.

Children born to J. H. and Virginia Lou Thomas Moore were Hattie (1867-1908); Sallie (b 1874); Thomas Clinton (b 1870); Annie (b 1872); Susie (b 1874); Willie (b 1876-died young); and Hollis (b 1878). Hattie married Monroe Magee and had two daughters and one son all of whom died at a young age. Sallie married Sam P. Dribbrell in 1893. Thomas Clinton married Fanny Perry in 1898 and reared nine children: Jamie Lou, Hollis, Walter, Tommie, Robert, Elizabeth, James William, and Harry. Annie married Dr. Walter Shropshire; they had two daughters, Olive and Bernice.

John Ludwig Mueller was born in Germany and married Louisa Lahmeyer (d 1937). When 19 years of age John Mueller migrated to America. In DeWitt County Mr. Mueller was one of the early freighters. He was employed by Runge and Company and later Breeden Brothers. Henry Ludwig Mueller (1887-1948), a son, was a well-known printer for the early Cuero Rundschau and later Cuero Record. He married Lillian Julia Angerstein and had one son, Oscar, who became a Presbyterian minister.

Judge David Murphree was born in 1811 in Tennessee. He moved to Texas in 1834 and was a volunteer under Ben Milam at Bexar in 1835; the Alamo fell while Murphree carried out orders to scout Fannin's whereabouts. At the Battle of San Jacinto Lt. Murphree earned recognition and a 640 acre land certificate.

In 1837 Murphree served as clerk to Gail Borden, Collector of Customs at Galveston. In 1838 he was president of the Board of Land Commissioners for Bexar County.

Stephen and Rebecca Brooks Murphree, the judge's parents, were persuaded to settle in Texas in 1839. They traveled by flat-boat to New Orleans and Gulf steamer to Linnville and made their home in Victoria for a number of years. From 1840, for several years, Judge Murphree was Chief Justice of Victoria County. During this time he assisted in the pursuit of the Comanche band which burned Linnville and later served in the Vasquez campaign of 1842 (as a major) and the Somerville Expedition. His last military experience was on the Indianola coast during the Civil War.

"Point Evergreen," Judge Murphree's home, on Prices Creek was completed in 1848. There with the help of his Negro slaves he raised fine thoroughbred horses, mules, and some cattle. In 1866 Judge Murphree sent 250 horses and mules to Missouri under the supervision of Captain Harvey Cunningham. The judge traveled by boat. He was killed on the outskirts of Osceola, Missouri, simply because he was a Texan and happened to arrive during a post-war sectional quarrel.

Judge Murphree married Margretta Patton who was born in Kentucky in 1824; her parents arrived in Texas before the Revolution and settled at Columbia. There were three sons born to the judge and his wife. Alex was born in 1845 and was killed in 1864 at the battle of Pleasant Hill while on guard duty. James Owen (1847-1923) was educated at the Allen Academy at Louisville, Kentucky (1864-1867), where he distinguished himself as a Latin and mathematics student. Jim did not return for senior year courses (1867-1868), but assumed management of his deceased father's plantation at Point Evergreen.

John Charles, born in 1858, was a student in local schools and the Nash Academy where he became interested in history. After 1879 he raised stock but later sold his land to Mrs. Dorah Clegg and lived with his brother Jim. In 1885 John Charles journeyed up the trail under A. Field as trail boss; Field was supervising the driving of 3400 beeves to the Wichita River. John Charles married Ella Coleman Murphree in 1905; she was the widow of his nephew David. John Charles Murphree died in 1944 leaving two sons, Charles Patton and James Alex, and one daughter, Margarette (Mrs. James

Milton Stokes).

James Owen Murphree James "Jim" Owen Murphree (1847-1923) made many friends during his life as a Thomaston farmer and stockman. His wife was Lulu Smith (1853-1937), daughter of Judge David Murphree's widowed sister, Virginia F. Murphree Smith. This Presbyterian couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1922.

Seven children grew up in the home that Jim Murphree built for his family in 1881 on his share of the Judge Murphree estate. Five other children died in infancy. David Murphree married Ella Coleman in 1898 and died in 1901 leaving a son, David Douglas; Tom (1880-1959) was a farmer (his first wife nee Abbie Edgar, and infant child died in 1905); Tom and Ollie Neal Murphree had a son Joe and a daughter Eunice (they were Thomaston and later Cuero Presbyterians); Tom and Annie Alexander Dunn Murphree, his third wife, had no children; Nellie was a long-time teacher and later local historian with a remarkable memory and appreciation for the people and events which made the DeWitt County region one of the most important sections in Texas; John married Jessie Tartar (their children were Hugh, John, and Nell); Ben (1889-1960) and Mildren Burditt Murphree had one daughter, Louise; Ann, a retire registered graduate nurse, did professional work at Burns Hospital (1923-1934) and private nursing at Cuero and Victoria for many years; Robert "Bob," an award-winning farmer and stockman of Thomaston, raises registered Herefords on the land of Jim Murphree's estate. He, Nellie, and Ann live in the parental home and remain active in the Cuero Presbyterian Church.

John Brooks Murphree was a brother of Judge David Murphree and a DeWitt County farmer. He married Sarah Ann Smith (1826-1870), daughter of James Norman Smith by his second wife, in 1845. Sarah Ann came to Texas in 1840 and she and John arrived to live in DeWitt County about 1850. She had been a contributor to the evacuation of 1842 by driving cattle to safety in the face of Mexican invasion. The couple had two children, Mary, who died in infancy, and Annie Elizabeth (1846-1937), a graduate of Viola Case's School in Victoria. Annie Murphree taught in the Nash Academy, was a church and civic worker, and taught school in Port Lavaca for twenty years. Sarah Ann Smith Murphree married Lewis Henry Delony after the death of her husband in 1855.

Isham G. North spent his youth in Tennessee and later married Martha Jane Baker. In 1841 after the death of his first wife, Isham North married Mary Barrow and later Clementine Baker Foster, a widow. In 1840 Mr. North arrived at the Upper Cuero Creek

Settlement, bought land and became a large-scale planter and hotel/stage stop proprietor managing his Negro slaves who helped defend the plantation against Indian raids.

A number of children were born to Isham and Martha Jane North; Martha Ann; Ophelia (d 1934) married Thomast Murphree (d 1899) (their children were North, Alex, Nina, and William Thomas); Ann North married John Chester Woodworth; Bill, husband of Leona Wilson, and Sam, who married Eliza Gordon.

James Baker North (b 1857) was the son of Clementine Baker Foster and Isham North. James Baker lived for over ninety years in the Concrete area where he attended the local college and became a cattle drover and enthusiastic sportsman; he married Kate Glass and had four daughters and four sons (Gertrude, Clementine, Margaret Bertha, Glass, Tom, Jim, and Edward).

Dr. Robert Peebles was a native of South Carolina; he was born in 1798. He married first a Miss Welche who died at San Felipe, second Mary C. Trigg and third (1858) Lucy A. Trigg. Mary C. Trigg was a major figure in the establishment of Live Oak Presbyterian Church under a large oak tree on the Peebles Ranch in July, 1849; she died in July, 1853, and was buried on the plantation. Lucy A. Trigg, niece of Mary Trigg, was also devoted to the Live Oak Church; she was born in Tennessee in 1827 and died in 1913.

Dr. Peebles arrived in Texas in 1828 and in 1849 bought the Churchill Fulcher League in DeWitt County, where in the 1850's and 1860's, his plantation along the west bank of the Guadalupe River was worked by Negro slaves. Dr. Peebles was a physician and early medical board member. He was a representative to the Seventh Congress of the Republic of Texas. His daughter, Kate, married William H. Boyd, a rancher and farmer; their children were Lucy, Julia, Ursula, and John Boyd. Dr. Peebles died in 1871.

John O. McGhee (1859-1904), a son of Dr. Peebles, married Fannie Blake (d 1957), the sister of Dr. Daniel B. Blake, a Cuero physician. Their children were Fannie, Pat, Tom, Trigg, and Robert. Fannie married Blake Alexander; Elizabeth Alexander, their daughter, married Douglas Muir.

William Phillips was a native of Alsace-Lorraine. He and his wife, Joanna, were pioneers of DeWitt County and reared one son, August W., who married Louise Kraemer. August W. and Louise Kraemer had two sons, Walter and August John "Brownie". Brownie Phillips married Elise Head and had two daughters and two sons, Wanda Elise, Annie Louise, John William, and Charles Carrol.

The confectionery business was common to August W. Phillips and his son, Brownie. The Phillips were Presbyterians; Brownie

was a deacon from 1939 until his death in 1953. Mrs. Elise Phillips has served as organist for many years and is active in all phases of church work.

Richard Power (1809-1874) was born in Ireland, came to America in early life, and had experiences as a Mississippi steamboat captain and notable adventurer as a close friend of John Twohig. Richard married Jane Arundel at New Orleans about 1843; they lived at nearby Algiers until 1848 when they came to live in the DeWitt County area.

This Catholic family consisted of two daughters and three sons who in early years were tutored in their parents' home. The daughter, Dorah (1844-1901) was a popular belle of Mission Valley and Prices Creek. She married Austin H. Clegg. Edward Power (1844-1910) became a large-scale stockman. He married Patti Irvin Field (1852-1900) in 1872; about 1880 they moved to Victoria. Ed and Patti Power lost six children in infancy; five daughters grew to maturity.

Genevieve was married in 1914 to James William Stevenson (d 1946) who served in the Texas house and senate; Genevieve still lives in the parental home at Victoria (the Power Home is a notable landmark of Victoria). Bess Power, an accomplished musician and literary figure, became Mrs. James Julius Werden. Edna Power married Arthur Monroe Hall, a railroad employee (two daughters). Dora Power specialized in art and became Mrs. Benjamin Quinn Ward, Jr. Helen Power married Robert Hughes Welder, owner of extensive ranch and oil lands, in 1912; three daughters were Patti (Mrs. Oakes David Edwards), Diana (Mrs. John Robert Thomas), and Marie Roberta (Mrs. Edmon J. Ford).

John Henry Power (1849-1902) married Blanche Fenner. Mamie Power (1851-1887) married Albert Gallatin "Al" Field, a Confederate veteran, stockman and trail drover, about 1881 (their daughter, Mary Helen died in 1882; the sons, Dick and John Ed, grew to maturity). Richard "Buck" Power, Jr. (1852-1892) was a bachelor stockman and farmer; he continued to live on in the home with his mother, who died shortly before Richard.

John Henry Power (1849-1902) taught the Mission Valley school several years, then was a farmer and rancher in that area; later he operated a store at Thomaston. He married Blanche Fenner (1855-1896) in 1877; four daughters and three sons were reared in this Catholic home. Two sons died in early childhood.

Mattie Power (1878-1958), a talented musician, married the widower Thomas K. Burrow (long-time Thomaston druggist) and was a devoted mother to his small daughter, Lena May. She married Walker Moore and their three daughters, Rosemary, Virginia, and Mary were all graduated from the University of Texas.

Fenner Power (b 1882), a railroad engineer, married Edna Brennan; they had a daughter, Dorris, and a son, Vernon. Libbie (b 1885) married Will F. Hawes, a stockman near Rockport; Libbie was a talented musician and was well known for her "rag-time" renditions for friends and relatives. This couple reared ten children in their Methodist home. Sons, grandsons, and sons-in-law all served during World War II. Mamie Power (b 1887) attended the College of Industrial Arts at Denton and for some years did book-keeping work; she married George Winston Pierce of California. They had one son, Martin Williard. Mildred Power (b 1889) taught school (1908-1917) and married Joe Pridgen, an auto mechanic. Joe, Jr., Stanley, and Mildred Frances grew up in this Catholic home; Mary Blanche died at the age of seven years; Robert "Bob" (1892-1920) did ranch work for his uncle George Clegg and was drowned while swimming with a group of friends; David Power (1896-1934) did clerical work and married Rosalie Brisson (their children were Dolores and Lawrence David).

Bolivar Jackson Pridgen (1829-1903) was born in North Carolina and moved with his parents to Texas in 1839 and to the Prices Creek area of DeWitt County in 1849. He was a farmer, using Negro slaves as laborers. From 1869 to 1872 Bolivar Pridgen served as a state senator. As a senator Bolivar Pridgen was noted for his interest in school and railroad legislation; the first free-school bill was passed during his tenure of office. His portrait hangs in the rotunda of the Capitol in Austin. In 1889 Bolivar Pridgen became postmaster at Eagle Pass where he was later collector of customs.

In 1850 Bolivar Jackson Pridgen married Martha Ann Williams; they were parents of seven children: Oscar Fitzgerald (1852-1941) was a farmer and postmaster at Thomaston (he married Mollie Lowe of Burns Station about 1875 - their daughters were Alice (Mrs. Henry McDonald) and Maud (Mrs. Ebb P. Butler); William "Willie" Edgar Pridgen (1857-1921) was a farmer at Thomaston (he married Mollie McCrabb (1857-1946) in 1887; they had nine children, Joe, Mabel, John, Wiley, Everett, McCrabb or "Bud," Annie, Cora and Tom; George McDuffy Pridgen (1859-1941) attended school at Thomaston and Austin (he married Mollie Pridgen (1857-1946) in 1879 - Gertrude, George, Bolivar and Gibbs were the children); George McDuffy was, after a short stay in Thomaston, express agent at Cuero, an active politician and Republican Party leader; he spent much time in Austin and Washington as a lobbyist.

Since the wives of Oscar, Willie, and George Pridgen were all named Mollie, the nephews and nieces designated them as "Aunt Mollie Oscar," "Aunt Mollie Willie," and "Aunt Mollie George."

Crockett Pridgen (1861-1913) was the fourth son of Bolivar J. and Martha Pridgen. Fanny Pridgen (1865-1915), sister of Crockett, married first John O. Williamson (two daughters, Hattie and Anabel); there were no children by the second husband, F. H. Gray.

Bettie Pridgen (1867-1943) enjoyed her girlhood days at Thomaston. She married Wiley Washington Pridgen, son of Redding S. and Elizabeth Hannah Wright Pridgen. They lived at Grapeland in East Texas and reared seven children.

Everett "Governor" Pridgen was born at Austin, January 26, 1872; his mother died a week later. Everett was cared for by his father, sisters, and faithful ex-slaves. Governor Pridgen grew up at Thomaston, but lived at Lake Charles, Louisiana, after his marriage to Laura Rose; they had one son, Gray.

Abraham Pickens (Pridgen) was a Negro slave given to Bolivar Pridgen as a wedding gift by his mother. Abraham met a most tragic death as a faithful servant refusing to reveal the whereabouts of his master. Abraham's daughter, Cilia Pickens, was born in a Pridgen slave cabin and married John Diggs. Cilia was a nurse in the Pridgen home; her sister, Ester, was given charge of managing the home.

David Crockett Pridgen was born in 1861 and married Jennie Pridgen, a distant relative, in 1894. She and the twin infants died in 1895. He later married Ruby Lois Farrar whose father, Henry Farrar, descended from charter members of the London Company, organizing institution of the Virginia Colony. Ruby migrated to Texas from Georgia in 1853 and wrote several articles on Texas history.

David Crockett Pridgen was a DeWitt County farmer, postmaster at Thomaston and school trustee. His son, William McKinley, earned the bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Texas to become a teacher and school principal. He married Velma Hill also a graduate of the University of Texas and later teacher; there were two children born to William and Velma Hill Pridgen. Margaret, the daughter of Crockett and Ruby Pridgen, married Edgar Vander Stucken; they had one son.

James Hill Pridgen (1840-1937) was a native of Alabama. After his service as a Confederate soldier, he did timber-logging at Milton, Florida, where he married Maggie Hart. Jim and Maggie Pridgen, little Lilla, and James Edward came to Texas in 1872 to settle at Thomaston. Jim had the town's first store and was also postmaster and railroad agent. About 1886 he began farming, an occupation in which he prospered. The Jim Pridgen family was active in the

Methodist Church; he was a steward for half a century.

Five children grew up in the Jim and Maggie Pridgen home: Lilla (1869-1953) married Charlie W. Oakes (1858-1945) in 1885 (the children were Ethel who married Clarence Wildman - son, Edward and daughter Eleanor-both teachers; the daughter Lucille Oakes married James Webster "Web" Wilson (they had two sons and four daughters- one son died in childhood); James Edward "Dr. Ed" (1873-1934) married Josie McManus (1873-1924) in 1898 (a son and daughter died in infancy; the daughter, Jewell was graduated from Texas University and married Hugh J. Donnelly); Jennie (1874-1895) became a teacher and married Crockett Pridgen; Warren L. taught school at Thomaston and married Sophie Connally; James H. Pridgen (1882-1957) received a master's degree in pharmacy from Tulane University and a doctor's degree in pathology from Northwestern University, was a laboratory technician at Burns Hospital (1906-1914), married Ada Beth Harwood in 1908 (their son, James H. "Jimmy"), was granted his doctor's degree from Tulane University, specialized in surgery at Mayo Brother's Clinic and continues a successful practice at San Antonio.

This family of James Hill Pridgen, veteran of Iuka, Lookout Mountain and a Union prison camp, was active in many worthwhile endeavors. James Hill, proprietor of the Thomaston store where Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr. was shot to death was only a distant relative of the victim.

John B. Pridgen (b 1853) was the brother of James Hill Pridgen. He came to live in the Thomaston area in the 1870's and married Maggie Wilson, a granddaughter of Charles Lockhart. They settled on a portion of the Lockhart Survey. John B. was prospering as a farmer when an untimely death took him from his family in 1896.

Maggie Wilson Pridgen carried on the duties of managing the farm and rearing seven children after her husband's death. Wilson, the oldest of the seven children, never married; he farmed at Thomaston; Ethel married Ellis Brooks (one daughter, Loraine); John L. received his medical degree from Tulane University and practiced medicine at San Antonio for fifty-four years; John L. and Moselle Pridgen had a daughter and a son; Ross (1888-1921) became a doctor, married Edith Fox and was practicing medicine at El Paso at the time of his death; Pearl became Mrs. Ernest Conwel; Mary married a Mr. Brasher (one daughter, Betty Jo - Mrs. John Badde, Jr.); Floyd married Nora Brown (their sons were Ralph, Jim, Floyd Wayne, Edwin, Lem, and Donald "Don. ").

Wiley Washington Pridgen, Sr., (1795-1854) married Mary Baker and was a native of North Carolina where he served as sheriff. In 1839

Wiley Washington moved to Texas and settled near Marshall. He owned property and slaves in the Prices Creek area and in Harrison County as well. His second wife, Ann E. Pridgen, lived with him at Gonzales while his first wife, Mary, settled with her sons at Prices Creek.

At the time of his death Wiley W. Pridgen owned 32 slaves valued at \$20,000. His children were Bolivar Jackson (1835-1913); Benjamin Franklin, who married Alice Wright and settled at Grapeland; Redding Smith (b 1824), a Mexican and Civil War veteran, who married Elizabeth Wright and lived at Grapeland; Henderson McBride, a bachelor, farmed in the DeWitt County area; Wiley Washington, Jr., (1841-1872), a Confederate veteran and husband of Elizabeth Vann Williams; James Polk (1843-1870) who lived out his life at Prices Creek.

Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr. (1841-1872) was born at Marshall, Texas, and married Elizabeth Vann Williams in 1864. He was a well known Mission Valley farmer who later lived at Prices Creek. Early in his life he served in the Confederate forces.

In December, 1872, Wiley was shot to death while standing in the doorway of Jim Pridgen's store at Thomaston; Jim was a distant relative. This shooting was an act of revenge by the teenage son, Jim, of the Jim Brown whom Wiley W. Pridgen, Jr. had killed in Mission Valley about 1863 when the two men quarreled over a race horse transaction.

Wiley Washington and "Bettie" Pridgen's children were Wiley Winburne (1865-1914), a student at Nash Academy and professional horse dealer; Mary "Mamie" (1867-1895), an invalid; John Taylor, who suffered a physical handicap and bore it with cheer and courage.

Dr. Ellie Harrison Putman (1868-1940) married Eula Gaines (d 1959) in 1896. He received medical training at the University of Kentucky and the University of Tennessee with post graduate studies at Tulane University and the University of Chicago. In Cuero Dr. Putman was a city health officer, physician, and real estate and insurance agent. Nell, Madeline, Virginia, and Harry were his children. Nell became the second wife of Dr. Sterling P. Boothe. Madeline's husband, Earle F. Miles, was a Presbyterian elder at Cuero. Virginia married Horace Whiteman (they had two sons). Harry Putman was on the Cuero Record staff from 1926-1958 and was especially well known for his column, "Town Talk." The Putman family was active in all phases of church work.

John Kieth Rankin, "Uncle Jackie," (1791-1884) was born in Kentucky and moved to Mississippi in 1816. He settled in Texas in 1822 and then returned to Mississippi for a number of years. Rankin was a

veteran of the War of 1812 and a county commissioner of Rankin County, Mississippi. In 1847 he moved to Cold Springs, Texas, and three years later to Irish Creek.

Kieth and Elizabeth Butler Rankin had four sons and four daughters; Moses Berry married Christian Metcalf and later Sarah Metcalf. It was Moses who operated the old Arthur Burns water-powered grist mill until it was washed away by the flood of 1869 - later Rankin ran a Dutch-type, wind-driven mill which lay idle much of the time for lack of sufficient wind.

Moses Rankin had four children by his first wife and three children by his second wife: Mary "Polly" Rankin married Sam Myers; Sam died in a Federal prison camp during the Civil War; James was a Civil War veteran; Masena married Gibbe Neel; Mariana married Alva Myers; Robert served as a lieutenant in the Civil War and Melinda married Valentine Cook.

Both John Kieth and Moses Rankin were Methodists at Irish Creek; John Kieth helped establish the Shiloh Church.

Robert Rankin (1733-1837) married Margaret Berry; he was born in Virginia, moved to Kentucky in 1790 on a government land grant and located in the Lambigby River area of Mississippi in 1802. He gave Washington County, Alabama, its name and encouraged migration to Texas from that area. Sam Houston often had council with his friend Rankin. After his death he was buried at Cold Springs, Texas, but final interment was effected in 1936 when he was buried in the State Cemetery at Austin.

Sallie Sangster, niece of Judge David Irvin, was born in Mississippi and moved to Texas where, in the Prices Creek community, she taught school and lived with her uncle. She married William Larrabee Callender in 1869 and inherited her uncle's Victoria property after his death in 1872. The Callender Home of Victoria, once Stoner and then Irvin property, is now designated as an outstanding local site.

Gustave Schleicher was born in 1823 in Germany; he received university training in his youth and was prominent in organizing German migration to Texas in the 1840's. For several years after 1847 when he arrived in Texas, he lived at New Braunfels. In 1850 he settled at San Antonio and for two years served as a state representative. From 1859-1861 he was a state senator.

During the Civil War Major Schleicher was an engineering officer under General John B. Magruder. His education and experience well suited him for his work as engineer of the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific Railroad which was extended from Victoria to Cuero in 1873. His last years 1874-1879 were spent as a United States congressman.

Gustave Schleicher died in January, 1879, after being elected to a third congressional term. Elizabeth P. Howard had become his wife in 1854. There were six children in the Schleicher family: Elizabeth; William; Mary; George J. was graduated from Columbia University, practiced law at Cuero with Judge Robert A. Pleasants, and married Lulu Lane; Eleanor, a graduate of Wellesly College, was a long-time Cuero teacher affectionately known as "Miss Lola;" Fletcher S., a Cuero lawyer married Viva Crain and died as a young man (two daughters and his wife survived him).

Julius August Schorre was a native of Germany who arrived at Indianola in 1852. Later he settled in the Lateiner Community (Five Mile) of DeWitt County. Julius Schorre married Sophia Baldewin and reared one son, Fritz Schorre, who became the husband of Emma Kleinecke. The children of this last marriage were Louis Charles; Julius Caesar; Walter August; Fred August; Robert Thomas; Edwin August; Albert Edward and August Carl.

Louis Charles was a Presbyterian deacon and elder; he was engaged in the banking business for fifty years as a cashier at Buchel Bank of Cuero, president of Farmers State Bank, and director of the board at the Goliad National Bank for twenty-five years. Louis Charles Schorre married Anna Barthlome and fathered two sons and a daughter.

Fred August "Fritz" was also a banker and later Southwestern Life Insurance Company employee. He married first Annie Louise Tedler and later Mattie Hoefner. Albert Edward "Dewey" worked his way from cashier to vice president and director of the Buchel National Bank; he was the husband of Lelia Vallie Lockett and reared one son, Val.

James Hyzcinth Schwab (1833-1913) married first Martha Hoch and later Mary Ann Jacobs. He arrived from Germany in 1849 and settled at Hochheim as a merchant, farmer, gin operator, and veteran of the Civil War. The family was affiliated with the old Upper Cuero Presbyterian Church and consisted of Martha and Mollie (twins); John; William; Charles T.; James H.; Edward H.; and Cora.

James Brown Smith was the son of James Norman Smith by the latter's first wife. James Brown married Virginia Featherstone Murphree (1831-1904) in 1852. He died in 1865 and while he never lived in Texas his wife and children became residents of DeWitt County.

Virginia Featherstone Smith and her children after 1866 lived in Victoria and then in the Judge David Murphree home about 1871.

Lulu Smith, daughter of James Brown and Virginia, was a popular belle who attended the Viola Case School in Victoria. She married James Owen Murphree in 1872 and reared seven children (five died in infancy).

Jim Smith (1857-1940), a Presbyterian deacon at Cuero and one-time Houston merchant, married E. Nina Ledbetter. Their daughters were El Lu, Virginia and Cecilia. Ben (1864-1925), another son of James Brown and Virginia Smith, married Mamie McIntosh of Victoria and was a railroad employee at Victoria and later El Paso. Their sons were Gordon and Ben Scott. Ella was the sister of Ben, Jim, and Lulu Smith and married Festus Farnsworth.

James Norman Smith (1789-1875) was born in North Carolina and moved to Tennessee where he farmed and taught school. In 1840 he relocated in Texas and took up a position of political and social leadership in DeWitt County. It was at the Upper Cuero Creek Settlement that James Norman Smith established himself as a major figure in the pioneer days. It was there he began his Texas career as teacher, Masonic leader, and Presbyterian elder. He lived later near Cameron and lastly at Clinton where he served as county clerk, county surveyor, and merchant.

James N. Smith left four volumes of manuscript memoirs which shed considerable light on ante bellum life in North Carolina, Tennessee, and the Guadalupe Valley of Texas.

Mrs. James Norman Smith (Elizabeth Hungerford Morehead) was born in North Carolina in 1803. After her marriage until her death she was much loved by early DeWitt County residents as the working partner of her husband, James Norman Smith. She was a talented musician, devout Christian, and gracious hostess; all these qualities aided in the chief goal of her life, supporting the public and religious work of her husband. She died in 1857 and was buried in the Clinton cemetery.

Susan Story Smith, daughter of James Norman Smith, was born at Concrete in 1841 and married Abraham Summers (d 1868) in 1864. Abraham was a widower. He and Susan had two sons, one of whom died at a young age; Charles lived to maturity. Susan was affectionately known as "Aunt Sue;" she died in 1910 and was buried in Hill-side Cemetery at Cuero.

Julia Spaulding was a native of Silver Creek, New York; she was born in 1873. She and her husband, George R. Cranston, lived for some time on a farm on Deer Creek near the Smith Ranch. After the death of Mr. Cranston in 1934 Julia returned to New York but made frequent visits to Cuero. She died in 1954.

William George Stubbeman (1876-1953) married Jane Louise Harrison. He was a Cuero Record employee for fifty-five years and also operated a small broom factory in Cuero. His sons were Alfred and Frank.

Abraham M. Sumners (1818-1867) married first Mary Cox and later Susan Story Smith. This Methodist family had a pioneer home on Deer Creek. The children of Abraham and Mary Cox Sumners were bachelor Tom, a large-scale rancher; Jim (1848-1925), a prosperous stockman and public-spirited citizen of Cuero, married Dolly Brown; Clayton "Clay" and his wife, nee Mollie Harrel, were parents of Mamie, Lou, Jessie, Will, and Jim. All remained single except Will. He and his wife, Olga, had a daughter and a son. Abraham and Susan Sumners were the parents of Charles A. Sumners who served as DeWitt County judge.

William "Bill" Sutton The ancestors of William "Bill" Sutton were prominent folk of Oxfordshire, England, who came to America about 1728 and settled in Virginia. John Sutton, an English immigrant, married Mary Bean and fostered William Sutton (b 1749); William Sutton married Sarah Carter and their son, John Carter Sutton (b 1770), married first Mary Chew and then Elizabeth Page.

This last marriage produced William Sutton (1792-1870) who was born in Virginia and moved to Tennessee; he married twice leaving eight daughters and four sons all of whom were very likely born in Tennessee. The family moved from Tennessee to Fayette County, Texas in 1841. The children of William were John "Jack" Sutton (b 1817); Sarah "Sallie" Sutton (b 1819); Wesley Sutton (b 1820) who married Cynthia Shults; Ann Sutton (b 1822); William Sutton (b 1823); Cyrene Sutton (b 1825) who married Robert Hunter, father of Kit Hunter; Henrietta Sutton (b 1827); Mary Ann Sutton (b 1829) who married Granville P. Bell, father of Jack Bell; Charles Finley Sutton (b 1830); Elizabeth Sutton (b 1832); Martha Ann Sutton (b 1834); Jane Sutton (b 1837).

James "Jimmie" and William "Bill" Sutton, sons of Wesley and Cynthia Shults Sutton, were born in Fayette County, Texas. Jimmie's birth date was October 10, 1844; Bill's was October 20, 1846. In the early 1850's the widow Cynthia Sutton and her two sons moved to DeWitt County where she was born and where her parents, Christopher Columbus and Mary Shults, still resided. On December 4, 1866 the widow Cynthia Sutton was married to William McDonald. They lived in Karnes County and later on the Old Borland Ranch in Victoria County where William was a stockman, raising both cattle and horses.

Jimmie and Bill served together in the Civil War as members of Company A., Waller's Battalion, Fourth Command, Trans-Mississippi

Department. Jimmie Sutton married Martha Dees. They lived near Stockdale and reared a family of five sons and one daughter; John, Val, Joe, Walter, Robert, and Lulu May.

Bill Sutton continued to live in the Victoria and DeWitt County area the remainder of his life. County records reveal that he purchased on December 15, 1869, 135 acres of land of the Arthur Burns Survey and a house, located south of Irish Creek (this was the former home of Thomas and Ardelia Burns Cook).

About 1870 Bill Sutton married Laura Eudora McDonald, a niece of his step-father. They lived in their home south of Irish Creek. After the tragic death of Bill Sutton in March 1874, Laura Sutton rented this home and went with the mother-in-law, Cynthia, and her daughter, Mollie McDonald to live at Cuero. There on August 24, 1874, the Sutton daughter was born and given the name Willie for her father.

In 1880 Mollie McDonald married Jack Bell, son of Granville and Mary Ann Sutton Bell. They rented the Sutton home south of Irish Creek. Then Cynthia, Laura, and little Willie Sutton came to live with them. This arrangement continued for several years; then the Bells moved to a nearby home of their own. Mother Laura and Willie returned to Cuero. Cynthia Shults (Sutton) McDonald remained with the Bells; she died in 1903 retaining her mental alertness until the last. She was buried in the Thomaston Cemetery.

On November 5, 1895, Willie Sutton married John William Calhoun. Their sons were Norman, Ralph, and Frank. Willie Sutton died in 1908. Grandmother Laura Sutton had a large share in the rearing of the three boys; she died in 1930 and was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Victoria near her husband (Bill Sutton and Gabriel Slaughter are also buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Victoria, Texas).

The Taylors Josiah Taylor was a native of Virginia; his wife, Hepzibeth Smith Taylor, was born in Georgia. The Taylor family came to Texas from Alabama and settled below Liberty in East Texas in 1824; they remained there for a year and then moved to Taylor Bayou where they lived four years. In 1828 the Taylors came as colonists of Empresario Green DeWitt, to settle on a head right grant east of the Guadalupe River.

Josiah died soon after his arrival; the land grant was made to Hepzibeth Taylor. Josiah was buried near the river; thus began the earliest cemetery of the DeWitt County area. From time to time other Taylors, relatives, and friends were buried near this first grave. This cemetery is located about three miles south of Cuero and continues to be well-kept.

The six sons and two daughters of Josiah and Hepzibeth Taylor were William Riley, Johanna, Hardia, Creed, Josiah, Pitkin, Rufus,

and James. William Riley had married before he came to the Guadalupe Valley section. He settled near where Hepzibeth and the other Taylors lived in a home on their land grant.

The family endured the dangers, hardships, and hard work of that era and were fairly successful in farming and raising cattle. Hepzibeth later married Patrick Dowlearn whose land adjoined hers. They had one son, Patrick "Bud."

James Norman Smith relates in his memoirs that some of the younger Taylor boys attended the school that he began on Cuero Creek in 1840. He records that the boys rode from home each Monday morning, staked their horses, boarded with his family, and rode home each Friday afternoon.

William Riley Taylor and his wife, nee Elizabeth Tumlinson, came to the DeWitt County area about 1828 to settle on the Joseph Tumlinson Survey. Their home was located a short distance south of where the town of Cuero was established in 1873. William Riley Taylor was one of the sturdy pioneers who aided in gaining Texas independence and assisted in the initial establishment of the cattle industry. He died about 1850. He is buried in the McCrabb Cemetery; his wife outlived him by many years and was buried in the old Junction cemetery.

The following sons grew up in the William Riley Taylor home: Creed, who passed his life in the vicinity of old Clinton and was a farmer and stockman, was named for his father's brother, Creed (he left two children); Joseph, the second child, was a resident of Goliad at the time of his death; William Riley, Jr. known as "Buck," died in Clinton in 1868 and left one son; John Milam became a large-scale rancher in the Yorktown area (he was a public-spirited citizen who lived an industrious and prosperous life as an early organizer of the First National Bank of Yorktown); the three children of John Milam and Josephine Adams Taylor were Preston, Nannie and Charles (married Hepsy Doolin); John Milam and Virginia Harrington's eight children were Elizabeth, John Fletcher, Mae, Crane, Myra, Fannie, Annie, Leona.

Creed Taylor, the second son of Josiah and Hepzibeth Taylor, was born in 1820; he was about ten years old when he came to live near the east bank of the Guadalupe River. He participated in the battle when Ben Milam's forces took Bexar from the Mexicans under General Cos. He was out of the Alamo on scouting duty when the fortress fell and later fought at the Battle of San Jacinto. In early manhood Creed Taylor moved to Karnes County. He gained fame as a hunter and Indian fighter. In later years he lived in the Junction area where he died. A stone marks his grave.

Josiah Taylor, Creed's brother, was born in 1821. He grew up in his mother's home and later lived in the Yorktown area where he

married and reared a family. He served as Captain of the DeWitt Guerilla Company during the Civil War. Josiah Taylor died in 1864; a stone marks his grave in the family plot near Yorktown.

Pitkin B. Taylor (1823-1873) grew to manhood in the Hepzibeth Taylor home before the county was organized. The license for his marriage to Susan Cochran in 1846 was the first one issued by the DeWitt County officials. The Pitkin Taylors lived in a home on the Taylor league where he was a successful farmer and stockman. He, his wife, and children were buried near his parents in the earliest Taylor Cemetery on the Guadalupe River.

Francis Marion Taylor (1819-1877) grew to maturity in his native state of North Carolina and served as clerk of Nash County. He and his wife, nee Emma King (1820-1902), were married in 1839, came to Texas in 1851, bought land on the Guadalupe River near Concrete and completed a "typical Southern mansion" in 1860. This home has been well kept through the years and continues (1961) to be owned by the grandson Robert Ritchie Taylor who is a bachelor.

Francis Marion Taylor served in the Texas legislature during 1860-1861. He prospered as a farmer and stockman and expanded his acreage; after his death, his widow and son, Thomas Ritchie, continued the plantation work.

The Taylors reared four sons and a daughter. Virginia and Carrie died in childhood. Benjamin B. Taylor (1838-1907) remained a bachelor. Thomas Ritchie (1842-1911) married Mary Middlebrooks (1870-1906), daughter of Henry Middlebrooks of Sweet Home. Samuel "Sam" (1848-1941) married Lillie Malissa Brown, daughter of Joe and Bammy Edgar Brown. Emma Frances Taylor became the wife of Marshall K. Shiner of San Antonio. Francis Marion Taylor, Jr., (1862-1910) married Nora Bachelor.

Azariah King (1793-1873), his wife, Nancy (1801-1853) and their son, James, came to Texas in 1852 and settled near their daughter, Emma King Taylor. Azariah prospered as a farmer and stockman; the son James became a doctor and had an extensive practice in the Concrete area.

Dr. James King (1826-1872) married Lucy Harrison (1831-1879). They were parents of six daughters and two sons. "Jennie" King married Elijah Steen of Concrete; their daughter Jennie became Mrs. W. A. Bell of Cuero. Blanche King married and her daughter became Mrs. Walter Porter of Beeville. James King married Tina Bachelor, sister of Nora Bachelor. Other King daughters were Cora (Mrs. Fred Patton of Yoakum), and Nannie B. (Mrs. Sol West of San Antonio) the younger King son, Eddie, died in 1879, at the age of seven years. There were also Emma (Mrs. W. W. Allen of Kerrville), and Bettie (Mrs. Ross Irvin).

John Twohig was born in 1891. He was a native of Ireland and married Bettie Calvert. Though John Twohig never lived in DeWitt County he did own much land there. In 1835 he settled in San Antonio and led an adventurous life after early training and experience as a seaman. He was active in the Texas Revolution and was taken prisoner at Bexar in 1835 along with Samuel Maverick. In 1842 he was again imprisoned by the Mexicans and held at Vera Cruz in the Castle of Perote from which he escaped with the help of his close friend, Richard Power. During later years in San Antonio John Twohig gained a reputation as a benefactor of the poor.

Jose Antonio Gonzales Valdez was a Catholic priest and brother of Rafael Gonzales, Governor of Coahuila Texas. Father Gonzales received a grant in DeWitt's Colony and was chaplain of the Goliad garrison in 1836 when it fell to Fannin. His grant was later conveyed to S. M. Williams, a partner of Stephen F. Austin.

Richard C. Warn was born in England and married Elizabeth Bates. He arrived in Canada in 1848 and came to Texas in 1850 where he worked as a carpenter at Matagorda and after 1865 as a merchant at Indianola. Later he moved to Thomaston and finally Cuero. The Warn offspring were Ruth, Richard, Minnie, Agnes, Lila, and Fred.

William J. Weisiger spent his boyhood in Kentucky and married Susan Friar, daughter of DeWitt County's pioneer, Daniel Boone Friar. Mr. Weisiger came to Texas in 1852 and served the county as a just sheriff and tax collector. He was a veteran (captain) of the Confederate States Army. His father was Dr. Joseph Weisiger and his offspring were Anna M., Josephine, Lucy, Susan R., Maud, John S., and Evan S.; William Weisiger died in 1885.

William Watt White was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi, in 1829. He married Martha North whose parents were Martha Jane Baker (1820-1838) of Maury County, Tennessee, and Isham North of Mississippi. Martha traveled with her father after his wife's death to Rocky Creek, Lavaca County, in December, 1838. In 1840 they settled near Concrete and became Cumberland Presbyterians. William W. White entered the University of Pennsylvania in 1852 and four years later received a degree in medicine. He practiced as a surgeon in Wall's Texas Legion during the Civil War and later attended the needs of Cuero Creek area in co-operation with Dr. J. M. Blakemore. Dr. White was by this time blind but dedicated nevertheless to the healing profession.

Dr. and Mrs. W. W. White reared Patti White, a rural school-

teacher, and Sterling P. White, husband of Ida Pope (d 1919). Sterling and Ida Pope White had several children: Dorothy became a child psychologist; Evelyn married W. W. Farrar; Ruth married Charles A. Jackson; Sterling P. Jr., married Sarah McFadden, and David J. was the husband of Ann Thompson. "Miss Patti" White (d 1943) had an active life in the Presbyterian Church at Cuero for 58 years. Sterling P. White (d 1959) was a Presbyterian elder at Cuero for forty years. He, his wife, and all the children were Presbyterians at Cuero. After marriage Ruth White Jackson changed her religious affiliation to the Episcopal faith and Sterling P., Jr. to the Baptist.

Oscar Fitzgerald Williams and his wife, Harriet, came to Texas from Tennessee about 1844, lived several years at Marshall, and settled in the Upper Cuero Creek area in 1852. Their children were Martha Ann; Elizabeth Vann; Oscar Fitzgerald, Jr., married Dora Bonner about 1866 and the couple had six children; Annie, who married Sidney Johnston Friar (three children); Mattie, who married John Friar and had two sons; Mary, who had three children by her husband, Wheeler Marvin; George, who died in boyhood and Agnes, wife of Henry Allison to whom one daughter was born. George Williams married Mary Friar in 1866. They had one son, John, and three daughters, Hattie Mary (1867-1934) wife of George Ratchford Cottingham; Georgia, who married a Mr. Evans and Julia who married a Mr. Southerland.

Edmund Fox Wilson (1836-1917), son of Rev. John McKamie Wilson (Presbyterian) and brother of Dr. Alexander Erwin Wilson (missionary to Africa), came to Texas from North Carolina in 1858. Edmund served with Wood's Regiment in the Civil War.

Lizzie Calhoun, sister of Sam and John Calhoun, became the wife of Edmund Fox Wilson in 1865. Their son McKamie (1866-1928) married Sarah Anne Blackman (six daughters and one son, Lewis Edmund); the son Edmund Fox Wilson, Jr. (b 1870) lived to be an old man, but his mother and twin brother died in 1870.

About 1872 Edmund Fox Wilson moved to the San Saba area of West Texas where he was a hunter and trapper. He and his second wife, nee Willie Putman, had several children.

John Chester Woodworth (d 1928) and Ann North (d 1919) Woodworth were early contributors to Cuero's development. John Chester was a merchant, mayor, postmaster, and insurance agent. The Woodworth daughters were Ella who married Goree Ashford in 1889; Cornelia who married Robert Kleas in 1901; Edith (d 1939), who married a Mr. Dent, was a citizen of Cuero well known as a

humanitarian; Leona (d 1957), wife of James C. Howerton (d 1935), continued active in the publisher's business (Cuero Record) begun by her husband in 1894.

The three Howerton sons were Jack, who succeeded his father as publisher of the Cuero Record and whose wife Polly is on the staff; Charles C. Howerton, a captain in the United States Air Force; and John Chester "Pete" who is vice-president of the Cuero Publishing Company.

The two Woodworth sons were Edwin who has lived in Washington, D. C., since 1910 and John Charles, Jr., who was a long-time employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Beginning in 1932 he was associated with his sister, Edith, in the insurance business at Cuero. His widow, nee Jeanetté Qualtrough, carried on the business from 1942 until her death in 1961.

John Robert Wright John Robert "Robbie" Wright (1865-1954) came to DeWitt County from Lockhart with his parents to live in the Prices Creek area in 1868. He grew up on the farm, got a fair education in the local schools, and in early life became a successful farmer with cattle raising contributing to his livelihood.

Robbie Wright married Mollie McManus (1870-1951) in 1890. They were Presbyterians at Thomaston; he served as deacon, elder, Sunday School superintendent and Bible class teacher. She taught the primary Sunday School class and was active in the Ladies Aid Work.

Two sons and a daughter were born to the couple. Will served in World War I; was an auto salesman and later carried on a real estate business. Will married Virginia Mantor; they have an adopted son, Bobbie. Welton grew to manhood, became an employee of Ford Motor Company at Cuero, and had a promising future; he was killed in an auto accident in 1916. Genevieve was an accomplished vocalist and pianist. She married Joseph Mack Young, a naval officer, in 1923. They have a son, Joseph Mack, Jr.

John Patton Wright (1829-1897) married first Mary Melvina Lockhart (1841-1875) and later the widow, Margaret Rankin Calliham, who was the mother of Walter Calliham. John Patton Wright was born in Mississippi and moved to Lockhart, Texas, where he lived until 1868 when he moved to Prices Creek. John was a farmer and De Witt County commissioner. Mary Melvina inherited 1050 acres of her father's headright, a portion of which she donated toward the establishment of Thomaston.

The oldest of the seven children of the first marriage was William Anthony Wright (1860-1939), trail drover, rancher, and

later Indian Agency employee at Hobart, Oklahoma. The other six children were Emma (1863-1886); John Robert "Robbie" (1865-1954); Anna (1866-1956) who married Lewis Burns; Delia (1870-1943) married Rev. Thomas White (Baptist) in 1897. Rev. White died in 1949; the children were John Patton, Mary Dale, Myrtle Lott, Willie Bill and Robert Arthur White. The two youngest Wright children (first marriage) were Lou (1872-1881) and Lockhart "Lock" (1875-1930).

The two daughters of John P. and Margaret Rankin (Calliham) Wright were Norma (Mrs. Charlie Farrar; one son and one daughter) and Eula who married Daniel Everette Conwill in 1903. The Conwill children were Dolores (Mrs. David Gorski), Daniel Everett, Jr., and John Rankin Conwill.

The Wrights affiliated with the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches. Among their numbers were farmers, teachers, and professionals. Associated names are White, McManus, Farrar, Conwill, Eatman, and Calliham.

John York was born in Kentucky, July 4, 1800; his parents, James and Allison York had several other children: James, Sarah, Phoebe, Patsy and Mary. The family moved to Texas and settled at Industry in 1821.

John married Lutitia Cain and reared ten children: Miriam, Jonathan, James Allison, William Griffin, John Pettus, Thomas, Sarah Jane, Elvira, Adeline and Robert. Names associated with the John York family through marriages were: Bell, Blackwell, Forbes, Hamilton, Brown, Taylor, Warren, Peavy. William Griffin was killed on the Mexican border; John Pettus died in Confederate service.

John York commanded a company during the storming of Bexar in 1835 and then settled in the DeWitt County region in 1845 where he promoted a townsite (present Yorktown) on the upper Fifteen Mile Coleta Creek. Three years later (October, 1848) he was killed in the Battle of Escondido Creek.

Physicians Of the manifold problems facing early Texas pioneers, that of maintaining good health was paramount. Indians, isolation, political revolution, and feuding seemed minor to the enigmas presented to these early settlers by malaria ("the fevers" or ague) which was an accepted and expected raider. This and other diseases such as typhoid, cholera, yellow fever, small pox, etc. were particularly prevalent in the coastal regions and in the lowlands. They came in epidemic waves and decimated whole regions.

Methods of treating these maladies would today appear absurd to even the layman. The professed causes of the most common diseases such as malaria were numerous: "bad air," poor diet (which was most common considering the absence of vegetables on many tables), exhaustion, out-of-balance humors, etc. Flies and mosquitoes were considered troublesome but not connected with the fruits of their presence. The germ theory of disease had not yet been accepted.

Bleeding, purgatives, emetics, amulets, poultices, and other cures while often of little physical effect were still of psychological value. DeWitt County medicine doubtless included these and other cures since the earliest healers inherited the techniques of their earlier frontier predecessors.

With the exception of men like Dr. Ashbel Smith and a few others, medical training generally consisted of "reading medicine" under an already established physician. Some "doctors" had no real medical education, and numerous "schools" of medicine existed. The level of medical training was as inadequate in the older settlements and cities as along the frontier according to sources such as one listing the types of physicians in New York in the 1830's: "Regulars, irregulars, Broussaisans, Sangradoarians, Morrissonians, Brand-rethians, Beechitarians, botanics, regular botanics, Thomsonians, reformed Thomsonians, theoretical, practical, experimental, dogmatical, emblematical, magnetical, electrical, electrical, diplomatical, homeopathians, rootists, herbists, florists and quacks." Each school had their own theory on cause and cure.

The charge for early medical care in Texas is revealing: "doctor's fees were five dollars per call (doubled after nine P. M.); cupping, five dollars; bleeding, two dollars; consultation, fifteen dollars; midwifery, thirty to forty dollars; and detention (per hour), one dollar. . . . Bills for medical attention, however, were difficult to collect and medical fees are not a safe guide to determination of doctor's incomes."

As a result of the difficulty in collecting fees and the general lack of business medics often engaged in enterprises, other than their chosen calling. The DeWitt County physicians often sought invest-

ments in secondary professions.

The following DeWitt County physicians (most of whom represent developments of the late nineteenth century) were, according to their recorded studies, at least as well schooled as the average Texas doctor, and many were conscientious post-doctoral students. Their civic and religious activities are equally impressive leaving DeWitt County an enviable heritage of faithful doctors performing in "horse and buggy" situations which today might well discourage their specialist followers.

Dr. Sterling Price Boothe was born near Hochheim in DeWitt County in 1884. After growing up in his father's home (L. C. Boothe) with twelve brothers and sisters, Sterling P. Boothe attended rural schools, Nash Academy, and Vanderbilt University where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine; he later pursued post-doctoral studies in New York City.

In 1906 Dr. Boothe married Belle Jolly of Nashville. They settled in Westhoff where he began his practice. In 1916 he volunteered for service in the United States Army and was stationed at Camp Mills, near Garden City, Long Island. He rose to the rank of captain. Following his release from the military he returned to DeWitt County and took up the practice of medicine at Cuero. He later joined the staff of Reuss Memorial Hospital, and following the death of Dr. Joe H. Reuss, Dr. Boothe purchased the hospital and operated it until its sale to the Texas Lutheran Synod; Dr. Boothe remained as chief of the hospital staff.

Mrs. Boothe died in 1918 leaving three children: Jeanette (Mrs. Saint W. Trout); Addie Belle (Mrs. Walter Malone); Sterling Price, Jr. (married Allen Connor Sales); and Mary Louise (Mrs. J. F. McCrabb).

In 1924 Dr. Boothe married Nell Putman, daughter of Dr. E. H. and Eula Gaines Putman; their two children were Marjorie May (Mrs. Fabian Marvin Summers) and Frank (married Lydia Carr). Dr. S. P. Boothe was an active member of the American Legion in Cuero and belonged to the Masonic and Knights of Pythias Lodges as well as the Presbyterian Church.

On July 25, 1940, pneumonia caused the death of this capable physician. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery in Cuero; he was survived by his wife, Nell, his six children, and five brothers and seven sisters.

Dr. Arthur Burns (1896-1940) grew up at Cuero where he completed high school courses; he was graduated from the University of Texas, Johns Hopkins Medical School, and interned at Mayo Clinic. Dr. Burns returned to Cuero about 1926 to practice as an associate of his

father and brother. He belonged to the American Legion, American, Texas, and County Medical Associations, Mayo Fellowship Foundation, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Methodist Church.

Dr. Burns moved to Houston in 1946 where he built a practice as successful as that in Cuero. He married Helen Reuss, daughter of Dr. Joe H. and Meta Reiffert Reuss. Their children were Mary Helen, John Arthur, and Joe.

Dr. John Gillette Burns (1894-1959) was a life-time resident of Cuero. The following quotation from Who's Who summarizes his background and affiliations: "John Gillette Burns--doctor of medicine, surgeon. B. Sept. 25, 1894--son of J. W. and Nettie E. Gillette B.--A. B. Southwestern U. 1916; M. D. Johns Hopkins U. 1921; U. of Minn. (Mayo Foundation) 1922-24; married Mattie C. Kent of Abilene 1933. Prac. of Surgery 1924--research 1935. Member A. M. A., A. C. S., Tex. Surg. Soc.--author of med. papers--Desc. pre-Republic Tex. pioneers--Methodist--Democrat."

Dr. J. G. Burns first married Faye Wolf; their daughters, Patricia Ann and Faye Carol, died in childhood. He and his second wife, Mattie, had no children; she lives in Cuero.

From 1924 until his father's death Dr. Burns was associate surgeon at Burns Hospital; he later became chief surgeon in connection with his private practice. It was not until two weeks before his death that he gave up his practice even though he suffered a grave illness for nine months.

Dr. John W. Burns (1866-1939), son of Columbus and Mary Ann DeMoss Burns, was a native of the Irish Creek Settlement. He received basic schooling at Concrete College and the Nash Academy at Cuero. For some time he taught to earn sufficient money to begin his medical studies.

John W. Burns graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in 1891 and began practice as a doctor of medicine at Cuero. He rode horseback or in a buggy to attend patients. He did post-graduate work in 1892, 1894, and 1897. Then Dr. Burns specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. In 1899, 1902, and 1908 he journeyed abroad to study in European institutions. From 1909-1939 he devoted his talents to general practice and surgery. He often attended lecture courses even after this extensive training and experience.

From 1911-1939 Dr. Burns was chief surgeon at Burns Hospital. He was a fellow of the American Medical Association, a member of the state medical association, and of the county organization. During the last 16 years of his life he served in the House of Delegates

of the American Medical Association; he was president of the Texas Medical Association 1930-1931.

This thirty-second degree Mason and Methodist steward was post-commander of the Yoakum Commandry No. 66, Knight Templars; he served as president of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. In 1893 he married Nettie Gillette, daughter of Rev. John Gillette. John and Nettie Burns reared two sons and two daughters.

Mrs. Burns, Gillette, Dorothy (Mrs. Le Roy Hamilton), and Arthur survived Dr. Burns who died in 1939. He was buried near his daughter, Antoinette (Mrs. Tom Gailbraith), who died two years earlier.

Dr. James Cole Dobbs James Cole Dobb's father was David Dobbs, a native of Alabama and a Baptist minister; his mother was Carrie Cole of Mississippi. After basic schooling James attended Baylor University where he graduated. His medical degree was earned in Texas and Tennessee. Dr. Dobbs began practice in Crowley, Louisiana; later he moved to Ganado, Texas where he built a wide practice. From 1914-1917 he served with United States Armed Forces.

After release from the military service Dr. Dobbs and his wife, nee EBA Horton, and their daughter Elizabeth moved to Cuero; there he practiced for three decades. In addition to his medical practice Dr. Dobbs served as president of both the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce and president of the Board of Trustees of the Cuero schools (1927-1941); he was also a deacon in the Presbyterian Church. His death on August 8, 1952, resulted from a heart attack.

Dr. William Dyche Finney was born March 6, 1845, in Aberdeen, Mississippi; his parents were Michael and Eliza Dyche Finney, natives, respectively, of Tennessee and Georgia. Michael Finney died of cholera on the overland route to the California gold fields in the rush of 1849.

William Dyche Finney served the Southern cause as a member of the 43rd Mississippi Regiment. In 1867 he came to Gonzales County where he farmed and supported his mother and sister. After two years of medical lectures in Galveston he was licensed to practice in 1872. He later attended Bellevue Hospital Medical College receiving an M. D. degree in 1882. Until 1905 Dr. Finney practiced at Wrightsboro and after that date moved to Cuero where he retired in 1918; he died soon afterwards and was buried at Cuero.

Dr. Finney married Florence L. West on December 3, 1882. Florence was the daughter of Larkin Nash and Rebecca Conn West. Floy, Vida, Lillian, (Mrs. Edwin Blackwell), and Eugene Lamar Finney were the children of Dr. and Mrs. Finney.

Dr. Andrew Jackson Hodge , one of the seven children of Samuel and Nancy Trigg Hodge, was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on August 20, 1823. He spent most of his boyhood in Shelby County, Tennessee. Beginning at the age of 16 he taught school for a short time. Dr. Hodge studied medicine at Nashville, Tennessee, and practiced in that state for several years.

In 1848 Dr. Hodge married Marcia V. Jones. Their children were Samuel and Maggie. The mother died about 1856 and Dr. Hodge remarried; Linda Thomas was his second wife. Their children were Melville and Jennie. The family moved to Texas about 1851 remaining for a time in Indianola and finally settling at Concrete.

Dr. Hodge practiced medicine at Concrete for several years than moved to Cuero. He had served prior to settling in Cuero as a captain of a Clinton military unit termed the DeWitt County Minute Men. In 1870 he was appointed surgeon in the Frontier Company of Texas by Governor Edmund J. Davis. Judge Henry Clay Pleasants appointed Dr. Hodge to the Board of Medical Examiners in 1886. About 1896 the doctor retired and moved to a farm in the Clear Creek section west of the Guadalupe River; he died in 1904.

Dr. Calvin B. Phillips , born in 1842 at Hagarstown, Maryland, was the third of seven children born to David and Sarah Scott Phillips, natives of Virginia. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were natives of England.

Dr. Phillips grew to maturity in Maryland and received his early education in St. Mary's College; ill-health precluded his graduation. Later he attended Jefferson Medical College and the Washington University at Baltimore where he was granted a degree in medicine.

On August 1, 1861, Calvin B. Phillips entered the Confederate Army as a private in the Third Virginia Cavalry. In October he was called before the examining board at Richmond, was passed and appointed Assistant Surgeon General of Confederate State Volunteers. He remained in the Army of Virginia, touring many hospitals and camps, until the conclusion of the war. After release from the military service Dr. Phillips went to New Orleans where he applied his skill in the yellow fever epidemic in 1867. In late 1868 he came to Texas and practiced at Oakville for a short time.

In 1872 Dr. Phillips married Fannie E. Atkinson, a native of Tennessee who came to Texas in childhood. They had one son, Calvin B., Jr. Beginning in 1873 Dr. Phillips administered for two decades to the Burns Station community. In 1894 Dr. and Mrs. Phillips moved to Cuero where he opened an office over Heaton's Drug Store. Mrs. Phillips died in 1897; the doctor in 1903.

Dr. Ellie Harrison Putman was born September 5, 1868, at White Plains, Kentucky. He completed his academic studies in the University of Kentucky and took additional courses in the University of Tennessee. Other studies were undertaken in Tulane University and the University of Chicago. His first practice was established in Arkansas.

Eula Gaines became the wife of Ellie H. Putman in 1896; their three daughters were Nell (Mrs. S.P. Boothe), Madeline (Mrs. Earle Miles), Virginia (Mrs. Horace Whiteman); a son, Harry, was born prior to the family's move to Cuero in 1909. The parents and children were active Presbyterians; Dr. Putman was an elder for 21 years.

Dr. Putman administered to the sick for a quarter century in Cuero. He died on August 25, 1939, survived by his wife and four children. Pastor W.A. McLeod remarked that "Our good friend, Dr. Putman, loved the beautiful. This accounts for his extensive culture of flowers and his care and concern for little children. What else has God made more lovely?"

Dr. August J. Reuss, the eldest of the Dr. Joseph Martin and Gesine Stubbeman Reuss children, studied medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He later served as assistant surgeon in the Prussian War. After his European war duty he studied two years at Wurzburg and Vienna returning to Indianola where he practiced for several months before settling in Cuero as the town's first doctor. It was Dr. A.J. Reuss who established the J.M. Reuss and Son Drug Store at Cuero. Dr. Reuss' career was ended at an early age when he died in January, 1876.

Dr. Joe Henry Reuss was the youngest of the five children of Dr. Joseph Martin and Gesine Stubbeman Reuss. He was born in Indianola in 1867 and came to Cuero with his parents at the age of nine. His early schooling was received at the Nash Academy; later he attended the University of Texas, then studied medicine under his father for several years. He enrolled in the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1889. Joe Reuss returned to Cuero after graduation and practiced medicine with his father.

Dr. Reuss specialized in surgery. About 1892 he opened a temporary hospital called "Salome" in the upper story of the Catholic school, behind St. Michael's Church. In 1894 civic-minded ladies of Cuero, assisted by a number of business men, organized a hospital association dedicated to sponsoring a two-story hospital on Factory Hill on the eastern outskirts of town. Dr. Reuss was chosen to manage and superintend the hospital.

Members of the hospital board were Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss,

Frank Cockran, John T. Wofford, Otto Steaker, Robert A. Pleasants, Mrs. John Welch, and Mrs. Otto Buchel. Mrs. Welch was the first president and Mrs. Buchel the first treasurer of the board.

A two-story hospital was completed and given the name Salome. Dr. Joe H. Reuss was the first chief surgeon and continued in that position until 1904; he was medical director of the Southwestern Life Insurance Company at Dallas while operating Marsalis Hospital in the same city until 1909. In 1911 Dr. Reuss returned to Cuero and resumed his work at Salome Hospital having bought out the association's interests. The Reuss Memorial Hospital dedicated to the memory of his father was the culmination of an old dream of Dr. Joe Reuss; it was erected in 1914 in north Cuero. He practiced the healing arts and was much respected until his death in September, 1919. Surviving were his wife, nee Meta Reiffert, two daughters, and a son, who became a doctor, but never practiced at Cuero.

Dr. Joseph M. Reuss was born in 1823 to his parents Stephen and Mary Mueller Reuss who were native Germans. Joseph was educated in the medical profession prior to his coming to America in 1845. He practiced at Indianola until the storm of 1875. During his tenure at Indianola he experienced three epidemics of cholera and seven of yellow fever.

In 1845 Dr. Reuss married Gesine Stubbeman at Galveston. She was a native German; their children were August J., Oscar J., Bertha, Alfrieda, and Joseph Henry. The family moved from Indianola to Cuero in 1876 where Dr. Reuss practiced until his death in 1909.

J. M. Reuss and Son A description of the Reuss Drug Store penned about 1895 sheds light on some marketing, medical, and journalistic characteristics of the period: "Oscar J. Reuss is the proprietor of this long-established and successful wholesale and retail drug business, located on east Main Street. His store is handsomely furnished, and the stock of drugs, chemicals, oils, paints, varnishes, proprietary medicines, toilet articles, school supplies, and druggists' sundries is full and complete. A fine fountain adorns the front and refreshing summer beverages are dispensed.

Besides a large trade in all these, druggist Oscar Reuss manufactures a full line of his own preparations which have an established reputation and a large sale. Reuss' Tasteless Chill Tonic, Extract of Sarsaparilla, Iron Tonic Bitters, Arnica Liniment, Syrup of Tar, and Wild Cherry are particularly popular. The prescription department enjoys a remarkably large trade and this department is Mr. Reuss' especial pride. He is a graduate of St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

He is social, popular, and well known throughout all southwest Texas."

When Reuss Drug Store was established in Cuero in 1873, Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss' son, Dr. August Reuss, was its proprietor. After his death, the brother Oscar J. took up the duties and on the death of Oscar, Theodore "Theo" became proprietor and retained the position until his retirement due to ill health in the early 1950's. Theo's son Joe has operated the store since that time.

Dr. Aaron Chapman White was born in Caroline County, Virginia, January 18, 1836. After basic schooling he attended the University of Virginia where he graduated magna cum laude. He came to Texas in 1857 and taught school for two years. Then Dr. White commenced the study of medicine under the tutelage of Dr. James E. King, a resident physician of the Concrete area. The Civil War interrupted this study and he enlisted in the Confederate Army serving under General Sibley in New Mexico and later under General Greer in Louisiana. Frequent attacks of malaria impaired his health and he was granted a discharge.

Having regained his health Aaron White completed courses in medicine at Tulane University; later he journeyed to New York to attend medical lectures. Dr. White began his practice at Clinton. In December, 1864, he married Frances "Fanny" Elizabeth Friar, daughter of Captain Daniel Boone and Anne Graham Friar.

Dr. White's connection with the participants of the Feud (1868-1874) shows how his services were valued by all: "The leaders of the Feud held a meeting and decided that Dr. White would be granted permission to doctor patients of either side without molestation or interference by any one of the opposing side."

In 1876 Dr. White and his family moved from Clinton to Cuero. There were five daughters: Mary (married Robert A. Pleasants), Fanny (married Venner Proctor), Julia, Ella, and Birdie. Julia was a teacher, Ella a registered nurse during World War I, and Birdie, the wife of Carl J. Bohne, reared a son, Carl, Jr.

Dr. White's life came to an end on December 5, 1888; his wife lived until 1927.

Dr. William Watt White was born in Aberdeen, Mississippi, November 19, 1829. After completing basic schooling in the place of his birth, he made a prospecting trip to Texas. In 1852 he entered the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania from which he graduated in 1856. After a brief stay in Bastrop County he moved to Concrete in DeWitt County and registered as a practicing physician in 1857.

About 1858 Dr. White married Martha North, the only daughter of Isham North and his first wife, nee Martha Smith of Maury County,

Tennessee. Their two children were Patti and Sterling. Dr. White later married Susie Stephens; they had a son, Walter, and two daughters, Mary and Willie.

Dr. W. W. White served as surgeon in the Confederate Army with General Thomas N. Wall's Texas Legion. He contracted typhoid fever in Mississippi and was on sick leave for some time returning to medical duties before the conflict ended. After the war Dr. White returned to his home and resumed his practice of caring for the sick even after losing his sight. Dr. White died May 16, 1914.

Bench and Bar The early bench and bar of Texas enforced and pleaded justice in a legal system compounded of Spanish and English common law. Frontier conditions drew many lawyers, both qualified and otherwise, to seek opportunities in land litigation, political or military position, or a number of secondary occupations which were required of the average lawyer since the profession was only moderately profitable.

Apprenticeship (lasting from a few months to several years) was the early method of legal training; licensing was for many years perfunctory and, in view of the qualifications of the examiners, demanded only elementary training. The exigencies of frontier life set the framework in which the pioneer counsels operated. Judges and lawyers used few written documents (legal libraries were scarce) and based their decisions and pleadings often on "common sense."

Judges and lawyers alike were often interrupted by Mexican invasion, rendered impotent by local feuding or limited by the gross informality of the early courts where most lawyers practiced both civil and criminal law. Decisions and pleadings reflect the contemporary environment; theft was exceptionally distasteful and was punishable in some cases by death during the days of the Republic. Over a dozen crimes carried the death penalty in 1836, but only a few called for imprisonment in the non-existing penal facilities.

As Texas culture grew more settled and complex the heroic but poorly documented decisions and pleadings of the early days gave way to higher bar standards and professional training. The following legal professionals reflect the increasingly prevalent formal education and secondary pursuits of a political and military nature.

William Jefferson "Jeff" Baker (1866-1908) was the son of James Porter and Maria A. Woodley Baker. He had his early schooling in DeWitt County and attended college in Tennessee where he was married to Mary Cash. They transferred their membership from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Lebanon, Tennessee, to the Cuero Presbyterian Church in 1890. Jeff Baker's career

as a brilliant lawyer was cut short by serious illness several years prior to his death in 1908. He was buried in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero. His wife and three daughters, Alice, Eleanor, and May Bird, survived him.

William Henry Crain (1848-1896) was the son of William D. and Amily Blake Crain; he was born at Galveston. After attending college in New York, William returned to Texas in 1869 and studied law in the firm of Stockdale and Proctor for two years. He was licensed to practice law while teaching school at Indianola in 1871. "Throughout his career William Henry Crain was recognized as a fluent speaker, bold, patriotic and fervid."

He became district attorney for the Twenty-third District in 1872 serving until 1876; then he was a Texas senator for two years. He was later elected to the Forty-ninth Congress and served until his death at Washington, D. C., on February 10, 1896. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery at Cuero.

In 1873 William Henry Crain was married to Angelina G. Mitchell, granddaughter of James Kerr. They reared four sons and two daughters in their Catholic home at Cuero. Mrs. Crain outlived her husband by many years. Three of the sons became lawyers; Frank and Henry practiced at Victoria. Henry's twin brother, James, chose a career in the United States Navy. Newton, the youngest son, is a prominent lawyer at Cuero; his son James is associated with him in a busy and successful practice.

Ashbury Bascom Davidson, son of William and Cathrina Davidson, was born in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on November 13, 1855. After settling at Gonzales, Texas, he studied law under Judge William S. Fly. Davidson was elected district attorney of the Twenty-fourth Judicial District and served as a member of the Texas Senate in the Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, and Twenty-eighth Legislatures.

A. B. Davidson and John Bailey were partners in a law firm in Cuero beginning in the early 1900's and continuing until his death, which occurred at Cuero, February 4, 1920. A. B. Davidson was married about 1890 to Minnie McClanahan.

William R. Friend, son of Nathaniel and Ann Robertson Friend, was born at Petersburg, Virginia, in 1832. He studied law at Princeton University and was admitted to the bar at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in January, 1852. He first arrived in Texas in 1854; he later left to return in 1857, settling at Clinton after marrying Ella Lightfoot of Iuka, Alabama.

Friend's Civil War career began as captain of the DeWitt

County Rifles. On September 1, 1861, he joined Terry's Texas Rangers and was elected first lieutenant of Company E on November 18, 1862. He served and was wounded at Macon, Georgia, November 16, 1864, and paroled at Demopolis, Alabama, June 7, 1865.

William R. Friend was elected to the Texas Senate in 1875, and as a legislator helped to bring order out of the chaos of Reconstruction. When the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific Railroad was extended from Victoria to the terminal town of Cuero in 1873, the Friend family moved there from their Clinton home. W. F. Friend died in 1889 and was buried at Cuero.

Judge John M. Green was born in Schulenburg, August 4, 1861. The family moved to Hallettsville where he attended public school. By competitive examination, he won an appointment to Texas A&M College and attended classes for two years. He transferred to Texas University and studied law under O. M. Roberts and Robert Gould and passed the state bar in 1886; he then established a practice at Hallettsville.

Two years after settling in Hallettsville J. M. Green moved to the newly established town of Yoakum and entered partnership with Dan T. Price. At Yoakum, Green assisted in the development of the young and fast-growing town as a member of the school board. From 1901 to 1904 he served in the state legislature where he was elected to head the judiciary committee.

In 1910 Judge Green terminated his partnership with Dan T. Price and accepted Governor Thomas M. Campbell's appointment to fill the unexpired term of Judge J. C. Wilson of Karnes City as presiding judge of the Twenty-fourth Judicial District. He moved to Cuero and held this office until his voluntary retirement in 1929, "not only maintaining the standards of his predecessors Pleasants, Grimes, and Wilson, but setting a high standard for his own successors to follow." Only once did he face opposition for the office (in 1924) and was then re-elected with a majority of 5,000 votes.

Six daughters and two sons of John M. and Sally Strickland Green grew to maturity. "Miss Annie Lee" was a favorite long-time English teacher at Cuero High School; Mrs. Belle Green Elzey was an efficient deputy clerk many years for DeWitt County; Howard P. first served as district attorney and then district judge. He has recently (1963) been appointed as Chief Justice of Court of Civil Appeals, Thirteenth District. Arthur M. was a lawyer at Cuero and later at Victoria (d 1961). Judge John M. Green's wife and two daughters preceded him in death.

August Christian Hartman (1882-1956) was a native of Arneckeville; his parents were A. C. and Josephine Hans Hartman. He studied law

while working in the offices of Davidson and Bailey in Cuero and later in the firm of Proctor-Vandenburg-Crain-Mitchell at Victoria.

"He took his bar examination at Texarkana and it is said he made the highest grade any attorney had achieved." Hartman was licensed to practice law in 1910 and became a law partner of Newton M. Crain at Cuero in 1919 (the association continued until 1950).

August Hartman gained recognition as an outstanding lawyer and served as legal counsel in a number of history-making cases in the state of Texas. He served as state representative and also as district attorney.

Mr. Hartman's wife, nee Elsie Lenz, died in 1941. He was survived by the daughter Hazel (Mrs. Tolbert McAllister) and the son Wayne, County Judge at Victoria (Judge Hartman served earlier as county and district attorney in DeWitt County).

Samuel Cabell Lackey and Nannie Lackey moved to Texas from Kentucky in 1865 and settled at Clinton where he practiced law. From 1866 to 1871 he and John William Stayton were partners. Soon after the county seat was moved from Clinton to Cuero in 1876, the Lackeys moved to Cuero where Lackey continued to practice until his death in 1889. His widow continued to live at Cuero until her death in December, 1917.

Four sons and one daughter grew up in the Lackey home. Sam Cabell, Jr. became a lawyer, Gabe A. was a farmer and stockman, Frank and Joe were twins, neither of whom married; Frank was a successful businessman, Joe a doctor at Cuero. The daughter, Jennie, died in young womanhood.

Samuel Cabell Lackey, Jr. was born at Clinton, May 5, 1866, and attended the early-day community schools. He was graduated from Kentucky Military Institute in 1887 and received his law degree from Texas University in 1889. While a member of the Texas National Guard in the 1890's he advanced to the rank of major; thereafter "Major Lackey" was his title.

For sixty-one years Samuel C. Lackey, Jr. practiced law. He attended every session of district court during his career (some 122 meetings) and served four terms in the Texas Legislature; from 1890-1900 he was county attorney for DeWitt County.

In 1891 Sam Lackey, Jr. married Jennie Weldon, daughter of Vachel and Sophia Dodge Weldon. They reared three sons in their Cuero home -- Vachel Weldon, Frank Joe, and Sam Cabell, III. The first two hold positions (1960) in the business world; Sam C. III chose a military career and retired as a colonel (he died in December, 1959).

Sam Cabell Lackey, Jr. died December 7, 1951. He had joined the Cuero Presbyterian Church on December 7, 1884, making him a member for 67 years. He was also a 32nd degree Mason and a Knight Templar. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery; he was survived by his three sons. His wife died in 1934.

Henry Clay Pleasants was born in Richmond, Virginia, on March 15, 1818. Educated at the University of Virginia, he was admitted to the bar in 1852 and practiced law in Virginia until 1854 when he moved to Texas and located at Clinton. Pleasants was elected district judge of the Twenty-third District and was serving during the period of the Sutton-Taylor Feud; his courage at those proceedings concerned with the Brassel murder (Sept., 1876) was exceptional and demonstrates how necessary it was on the frontier to supplement law books with Rangers. "Judge Pleasants was always firm but considerate and fair in performance of his official duties."

In 1858 Henry Clay Pleasants married Ann Eliza Atkinson. Two of their four children were Robert A. Pleasant who married Mary White, daughter of Dr. A. C. and Fanny Friar White, and Mary "Mamie" Jane Pleasants. In 1892 Robert Clay Pleasants was elected to the Court of Civil Appeals of the First District; he served until his death at Galveston, November 19, 1899. Burial was at Cuero.

John William Stayton (1830-1894), son of Robert G. and Harriett Pirtle Stayton, was a native of Washington County, Kentucky. Bereft of his father when he was five years old and his mother at the age of twelve, he lived for some years with his maternal grandparents on a Kentucky farm. He studied law under his uncle John Henry Pirtle, later attended the University of Louisville, and obtained his law degree in 1856.

In April, 1856, John William Stayton was married to Jennie Weldon, sister of Vachel Weldon, and they came to Texas in November of that year. They lived at LaGrange, then at Pleasanton where he was district attorney from 1858 to 1861. From 1862 to 1865 J. W. Stayton served in the Confederate Army, rising to the rank of captain. Upon his return he and his family lived at Sutherland Springs a short time before moving to Clinton. The Staytons had three children: Robert W. Stayton, who became a lawyer and practiced at San Antonio; Willie Stayton, who married Fielding Breeden, an early day DeWitt County sheriff; and a younger daughter.

At Clinton John William Stayton entered into partnership with Samuel Cabell Lackey, Sr. (the association lasted until 1871). Then Stayton moved to Victoria where he was associated with Alexander Hamilton Phillips until the death of the latter in 1880. In 1882 John

W. Stayton was elected associate justice of the Supreme Court of Texas and in 1888 became chief justice, a position he held until his death at Galveston on October 20, 1894.

Stockdale-Proctor Fletcher S. Stockdale (1827-1902) was born in Kentucky, studied law and was admitted to the bar before he moved to Indianola, Texas in 1846. He and David Proctor became law partners and moved to Cuero about 1873 where they spent the remainder of their lives.

In 1856 Stockdale became one of the unsuccessful "incorporators of the Powderhorn, Victoria, and Gonzales Railroad, projected to be built from Powderhorn to Austin." He served as a Texas senator (1857-1861) and lieutenant governor (1863-1865). As a member of the Secession Convention he served on the committee which drafted the Ordinance of Secession. At Cuero he practiced law and promoted the Cuero Land and Immigration Company.

Stockdale's first wife was the widow Betty Proyo Bankhead Lytle (married in Arkansas in 1856); his second wife was Betty Tinsley Howard and after her death he married Betty Schleicher, daughter of Gustav Schleicher. He died at Cuero and was buried in Kentucky.

The Proctors David Proctor had a long and successful law practice at Cuero. He and his wife, Ann Augusta Proctor, were active members of the Cuero Episcopal Church and spent much of their time and talent in community and social affairs. They reared two sons who became lawyers.

Venerable "Venner" B. Proctor married Fannie White, daughter of Dr. Aaron C. and Fannie Friar White. He was a successful lawyer at Victoria. Frederick "Fred" Cocke Proctor (1866-1935) was graduated from Texas University in 1887 and began law practice at Victoria. He was married to Lucy Wofford in 1889 (three children); in 1905 the Fred Proctors moved to Beaumont where he was counsel for Gulf Oil Corporation. The last home of the family was Houston where they relocated in 1919.

Representative Homes A number of factors dictated the situation and construction of dwellings in early DeWitt County. Homes were situated in respect to the streams supplying fresh water and high ground offering protection from floods. The material was wood (often combined with stone) and like earlier Americans the DeWitt County settlers used round logs or formed them roughly into timbers. The log cabin was used extensively --this type structure was a matter of habit to those from older frontier regions and had been used since the 1680's when it was adopted from the Swedes; contrary to popular belief none were constructed in Jamestown, Plymouth, or other

very early English settlements.

Log construction was quantitatively expensive but very well suited for various reasons to the environment of the day. The cabin was relatively easy to erect-compared to the skill and tools needed for the clapboard home -- sturdy, and served as a miniature fortress. Two log rooms with a common roof, porch, and sheds added behind were typical; this dog run between the rooms survived into later years when frame homes supplanted the log dwellings. The cost of a house of this type today testifies to the depletion of timber, new technology in construction, and general revolution in standards of living.

Time brought refinements to log cabins; wooden floors, windows, additional out-buildings, and other supplements were products of surplus time and material. Conveniences now taken for granted were seldom seen at first --- pegs substituted for nails, skins for glass, and back-breaking labor for electrical pumps, modern piping, and other contrivances.

A number of common characteristics appear in these homes of primarily the southern section of the county. Wherever available and depending on the economic condition of the settler, rock was combined with wood. Floor plans and location of out-buildings were similar; two stories were not uncommon; structures often served many functions, eg., family home, stage-stop, tavern, store, lodge hall, meeting place, Sunday School, etc. Though most of the pioneer homes are now only memories (the mud-daubed chimneys were notorious as fire hazards) much can be learned from those few which remain; a home like that which once belonged to Senator Bolivar Pridgen demonstrates by its history of shifting front entrances how dwellings were often modified to face the new roads or railroads which replaced the stream, fords, ferries, and trails as focal points of county progress.



The Anderson Home This was built in 1859 by William J. and Susan Friar Weisiger, and this family lived there until the spring of 1865. On October 8, 1864, James I. Cottingham of Refugio County purchased this house and the 690 acre tract of Charles Lockhart Survey land on which it is located for \$6,700. For the next seven years John Anderson rented it and lived there. In January, 1872, Anderson bought the house and part of the land from the Cottinghams who were still living in Refugio County.

This 102-year old home is located a short distance west of Highway 87 about three miles north of Thomaston. The main part of the house stands today (1961) as it was originally built. It has a large south room and a smaller north one on the east and the west side of a central hall both up and down stairs. Each of the four south rooms is 16' square; the north ones are 16'x10'. Due to the very steep roof the rooms upstairs have low north walls in which there are no windows or doors. They are altogether unceiled and have always been used only as storage rooms. The Anderson children called these the "dark rooms." The downstairs hall is 26'x10'; the one upstairs is the same width but only 19' long, for it extends only as far north as the head of the narrow stairway which begins in the northeast corner of the downstairs hall. At the landing the banister of the stairway turns so as to bound the north edge of the last two steps, and then the banister extends across the north edge of the upstairs hall or balcony. The ceiling differs from the high type found in most early-day houses. Those in the downstairs rooms are 8' and those upstairs only 7'. A plastered rock chimney is located at the east and west end of the house. There is a fireplace in both the downstairs and

upstairs south rooms on the west but only downstairs on the east.

Originally wide porches lacked only 20" on each end of extending all across the south front of the house. Both had banisters; the one upstairs was unroofed. In 1884 John D. Anderson had these porches shortened and a roof put on the one upstairs. In later years Irven Anderson had the one downstairs windowed in and the one upstairs screened. Also in 1884 John hired carpenters Bill Hassen and William Berry to build the first addition to the house with the lumber of the former Burns Station school house which he had bought. They added an open passageway west of the northwest room which was then being used as a dining room and on west of the passage a kitchen. The earlier day kitchen was detached from the house as was the usual custom in those times. An underground cistern with a pump was located at the north end of the passage way.

In later years Irven made other additions. The open passage was closed in; a windowed-in porch was added south of the kitchen; a bathroom, east of this and a milk room west of the kitchen. The front was changed from the south to the north and concrete porches added in front of the main hallway and also in front of the former open passage. Ample barns, implement sheds, and the garage are at the north a little west of the house.



The Arthur and Sarah Morgan Burns Home (1826-1882) This home was located on the Arthur Burns headright a short distance south of Irish Creek and not far west of where, in 1872, the railroad company laid off the town of Burns Station. The house was built by the Arthur

Burns family in the late summer of 1826, and was the first home to be erected in this section of the Guadalupe River Valley (the first one in the entire area that in 1846 was organized into DeWitt County).

The house fronted north. It was of native logs covered with a kind of early-day adobe and was one of the strongest and best built houses of its day. There was one large room 18'x24' both up and down stairs. A porch extended all across the front, downstairs. On the southwest was a large shed room; on the southeast was a back porch. The chimney was on the east end of the house. Some distance south of the house was the log kitchen with a chimney on the west side. Beyond this was the log barn. A well near the house furnished the family water supply.

During the early years the Burns home was considered a community center; it was made headquarters as a fortified place against Indian raids until these dangers came to an end about 1846. In the year 1841, at the April term of the Victoria County court, the "Arthur Burns home was designated as the place where the Road Commissioner of Victoria County were to meet those of Gonzales County on May 2, 1841, for the purpose of carrying into effect plans for the proposed Victoria-Gonzales Road by the most direct route." Not far from the Burns home was a shallow crossing in the Guadalupe River which was later called Cottingham Ford. It was frequently used by early-day colonists in traveling to and from Goliad to Austin's Colony on the Colorado River. General Sam Houston crossed this ford in 1836 and spent the night with his friends at the Arthur Burns home.

The adobe-covered house stood until about 1882 when Columbus Burns tore it down. Only the well marks the site where for more than a half-century stood the first home to be built in the DeWitt County area.

The Columbus Burns Log House This home was built north of Irish Creek in 1850 by Columbus Burns, son of Arthur Burns. It had two large rooms 16' square with a hall 12' wide running between them. A porch extended across the south front. The kitchen was built some distance behind the house. The family of Columbus and Mary Ann DeMoss Burns lived in the home until 1856 when they moved to the Arthur Burns home south of Irish Creek. The cabin stood vacant until 1873 when it was moved nearer and just west of the newly constructed railroad. It was occupied by the Columbus Burns family again until 1895 and in 1905 was sold to Frank Shanks who left the old cabin intact in the back yard of his home; the remaining logs were removed in 1955.



The Daniel Boone Friar and Crockett Cardwell Building (1839-1916)

This house was located on land of the Sam Lockhart Survey in the lower section of the Cuero Creek area. It stood at the junction of the LaGrange-LaBahia and Victoria-Gonzales Roads and it was built by Daniel Boone Friar in late 1839 or early 1840.

Originally the building was a full two-story house which had two large rooms each 40' square both up and down stairs built of heavy lumber and put together with large wooden pegs. The house fronted south. There was a chimney and a huge fireplace on the west. Just back of the chimney an outside stairway led to the west upstairs room. There was also an inside stairway located in the downstairs east room. The Friars used the building as a combination home, store, and post office. The United States government established this office May 22, 1846, and it was given the name Cuero.

The west upstairs room was often used for public meetings and gatherings. On February 2, 1842, the Congress of the Texas Republic organized a DeWitt County for Judicial purposes and the "House of D. B. Friar was designated as the meeting place of District and County Court until a county site is selected for County Court." But the Judicial Counties were soon declared unconstitutional and no record appears of any court meetings for the Judicial County of DeWitt. After the present DeWitt County was organized, the "Commissioners' Court appointed all courts to be held at D. B. Friar's house until a proper building can be procured at the county seat of Cameron."

On September 28, 1849, Daniel Boone Friar sold his house and

50 acres of land to Crockett Cardwell who for many years used the building for a store, post office, stage stop, and tavern. Public meetings were held in the upstairs west room. The Cardwell family lived in a nearby log house. Some time during the year of 1840 a Temperance Society was organized and held its meetings in the Cardwell building. On November 5, 1850, the county's first Masonic Lodge, Cameron Lodge No. 76, was organized and had its meetings there until the Lodge was moved to Clinton in January, 1853. People of the surrounding neighborhood often gathered in this room to hear campaign speeches by various candidates, lectures, and discussions on topics of general interest.

Beginning in 1872 the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad was extended from Victoria into DeWitt County and in January, 1873, a terminal town was located four miles south of Cardwell's store. The government post office, which had borne the name of Cuero since it was established May 22, 1846, was moved from the store to be the post office of the railroad town that was being surveyed and which was given the name of the post office, Cuero. The Cardwell store was soon discontinued.

During the years the Cardwells had added a south porch and two long shed rooms on the back (or north) of the original two-story house. A short distance north of the shed rooms there was a latticed milk house with double cisterns; also a large store room. In 1916 it was torn down and the material was used to rebuild a barn and other out houses that had burned on the nearby Lewis Burns ranch.



The McDonald Log House This house was built in 1850 by Buckner Harri

It was located in the Prices Creek area of the Guadalupe River Valley on 1040-acres of Amadore Survey land and was about a quarter of a mile north west of the David Murphree home, Point Evergreen. Harris sold his place to John McDonald in 1852 and through the years it was known as the McDonald home.

The house faced south. The log part of it consisted of two 18' square rooms with an open hall 12' wide running north and south between them. The two back shed rooms were of lumber and were each 12'x18'. The hall extended on between these rooms, making its full length 30', and this north end was used as a dining room. The early-day kitchen was detached from the main house. The wide gallery across the south front was of lumber. Rock chimneys were located on the east and west ends of the house. A log store room was located a short distance northeast of the east shed room. Just north of this and about 50' from the dining room was the large log kitchen with a huge fireplace in the east end. To the northwest of the house were ample log barns. Numerous shade trees grew in the spacious yard. Three well-built log cabins served as quarters for the Negro slaves and were located a short distance beyond the master's back-yard fence.

About 1870 the Negro cabins and other log houses back of the home began to be abandoned and torn down. A new kitchen 14' square was built of lumber and located with its front about four feet from the north end of the hall and connected with it by a board platform. Some years later this kitchen was moved further back of the house to be used as a smokehouse. From then on the northwest shed room was the kitchen in the log house which continued to be the McDonald home until 1908 when Jim and Ann sold it and 284 acres of land to Adam Kohutek; he and his family lived there two years. Then in order to make room for a new two-story home, this log house, that for 60 years had been a comfortable home was torn down.

The John P. Wright Home John Patton and Mary Melvina Lockhart Wright built this home in 1870 on her share of the Charles Lockhart Survey. It was located a short distance west of Thomaston and was constructed of Florida lumber with an east porch in front of two large rooms separated by a hall; smaller rooms formed an ell on the west. Wrights occupied this home until the early 1900's; it was then vacant or rented. Charles and Lilla Oakes later purchased the dwelling, and it was demolished in 1946.



The James H. Moore Home James H. and Lou Virginia Thomas Moore built their home in 1872 on Amadore Survey land then owned by her father, Nathan Thomas. This was the first house to be located within the bounds of the town the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific Railroad surveyed, in the spring of 1872 as DeWitt County's first railroad station.

The original house had only three rooms. They were built of thick timbers hand hewn from native trees which grew on the nearby Guadalupe River. Through the years additions were made until the Moore place became a comfortable, roomy home with three bedrooms, a large parlor, a hall, dining room, kitchen, an open porch on the east front, and a screened one on the west. Shade trees, yard flowers, and pot plants gave added comfort and beauty. Until 1924 this well-kept Moore home was open to visitors who never failed to receive a hearty welcome from its neighborly tenants.

After 1925 Dr. Walter Shropshire, a Jim Moore son-in-law, was the owner of the house. It was then a tenant house or stood vacant in need of repairs until it was torn down in 1946 and sold for lumber.



The David Murphree Home In 1848 David and Margaretta Patton Murphree built a one-story house on the 1070 acre tract of Amadore land he had bought in that year. It was located on Prices Creek near a spring which furnished an abundance of clear, cold water. In 1852 an upper story was added.

The two north rooms were of native sand rock with walls 16" thick and 11' high. The east one was 18'x20'; the one on the west 20' square. Back of it was a room 10' wide; east of this was a hall 10' square, open on the south; next was a 12'x10' room. These back rooms were of Florida pine. All ceilings and floors were of 6" lumber, and the floor joists rested on a rock foundation a little above the rock rooms. The east room, or early-day parlor, had the same dimensions as the rock room below. The other upstairs space had a room 20'x10' on the south with one 12'x10' and another 8'x10' on the north. Supported by six large posts a 7' gallery extended across the upstairs front. A banistered stairway 8' wide with seventeen steps led directly from the ground to the center of this porch. There was a closed-in stairway on the west end of the house.

In early years this place was called Point Evergreen, probably because of its well-kept grounds. The front yard was 135' deep and 100' wide. Across the north was a high rock wall with a wide arched gate in the center. Graveled walks led to the house. Rose beds were kept on both sides of the walk. About 1864 small cedar trees were planted east and west of the walks. There were Bermuda grass lawns on both sides of the yard. During Judge Murphree's lifetime these grounds were beautifully kept by Negro slaves.

Today not a tree, rock, or flower is left to tell of their former beauty.

During the months it seemed probable that Victoria might be besieged by Union forces, Judge Murphree offered his home as a place of refuge for a number of friends. Those who came were the Will G. Venable family of seven and number of slaves, the Dr. Robert Cocke family of five, and the wives of the soldiers Tom Taylor, David Proctor, and Hughes. There was a little Proctor boy and several Hughes children, one of whom died during the stay at Point Evergreen.

David Murphree met an untimely death in 1866, but his home continued as Murphree property until December, 1882, when it was sold to Dorah Power Clegg. Then for a number of years it was the gay and hospitable home of the Austin and Dorah Clegg family. The Richard E. and Field Cleggs lived there until 1954; the house was completely razed in 1961.



The Captain Richard and Jane Arundel Power Home This house is situated on land of the Miguel Ortiz league. When Captain Richard Power had it built in the late summer of 1848 the land belonged to John Twohig. In 1889 after their father's death the two sons, John Henry and Richard "Buck" Power, bought 2214 acres of land including the home site from Twohig. The house was located in DeWitt County near the Victoria County boundary on a high bank of the Guadalupe River "on the east side of the Lower Mission Valley Public Road two miles from where it intersects the Thomaston and Arneckeville Road.

It is 6 1/2 miles southwest of Thomaston on the opposite side of the Guadalupe River and is included in the Thomaston School district."

Contractor Richard Owens built the Power home of Florida lumber which was hauled from Port Lavaca by ox wagon. It has a downstairs porch 38' long and 10' wide across the south front. Both up and down stairs there are two large rooms each 18'x14' with an 18' hall running north and south between them; down stairs the hall was open the entire width on both the south and north ends. Upstairs the only openings on the south are three windows, one in each of the two large rooms and one in the hall. Downstairs on the north there are three shed rooms; the central one was originally used as a dining room and is 16'x10'; the two end rooms are each 11'x10'; the one on the northwest was the early-day kitchen; a rock chimney was located at each end of the house.

Soon after the Civil War this Power home provided a place of refuge and concealment for Gilbert Onderdonk Sr. who had served as a Confederate soldier. While Texas was under Union Military Rule during the Reconstruction period, Onderdonk did or said something that displeased the authorities. They tried to arrest him with the intention of punishment. However their efforts were in vain, for Richard and Jane Power kept him secretly and safely hidden in an upstairs room of their home for several months until all danger had passed. His meals and all necessities were carried to him and not once did he leave that room during his concealment.

For half a century this house was owned by Powers and for most of these years was occupied by them. After his wife's death John Power and his children lived there from 1897 to 1899. In 1900 it was sold to Frank Rabel. Since 1928 it has been owned by his son J. Frank "Ike" Rabel and occupied by him and his family. He has enclosed the down-stairs hallway and built a porch on the east end of the house. To make room for this, the oak tree on the southeast was cut down. Both chimneys are gone. Otherwise the house stands today as it was originally built 113 years ago, and it is in quite a good condition of repair.

The McCrabb Home William Anderson built this home in 1874; it was later sold to Richard Warn and finally to Joe McCrabb in 1881. It faced east and was located about a mile southwest of Thomaston. There were two large front rooms with a hall between them both up and down stairs. On the northwest was a two-story ell with two rooms on each floor. Porches extended across the south side of these rooms. From 1884 to 1916 members of the "Buck" McCrabb family occupied this dwelling; after 1916 it was vacant or rented to the Zengerli family. In 1945 the house was sold for lumber.



The Bolivar and Martha Pridgen Home Bolivar Pridgen built this home in 1852 in the Prices Creek Settlement on the east side of the Victoria-Gonzales Road. The material was Florida lumber hauled from Indianola by ox-wagons. Negro slaves brought rocks from the Guadalupe River bottom, made a chimney on the north and the south ends of the house, and helped with much of the other building work.

The house has two rooms 18' square with a hall 10' wide running east and west between them both up and downstairs. The wide stairway is in the north side of the hall. There are two other downstairs rooms that form an ell with the main house; each is 18'x16'; they were used as dining room and kitchen. Originally the ell was on the northeast and there was a porch both up and downstairs all across the west front.

In 1872 when the Gulf, Western Texas, and Pacific Railroad was extended from Victoria into DeWitt County the rails ran west of the Pridgen home; the public road was changed to pass east of it. Bolivar Pridgen then remodeled his house to face east. The north east rooms were moved to the northwest corner. The porches were removed from the west and built across the east front. The yard extended almost to the road. Cedar trees were planted on both sides of the long walk from the house to the front gate. Since the slaves had been freed the Negro cabins that had been east of the house were no longer needed. One or two were placed on the west for the few who chose to remain as servants. Years ago the highway was changed to run west of this 107 year-old Pridgen home which still faces toward

the rising sun; the structure has stood vacant since 1935 and is in a very poor state of repair.



Wiley and Mary Pridgen (Eatman) Home In the Guadalupe River Valley of DeWitt County in what was then called Prices Creek Settlement, Wiley Washington and Mary Baker Pridgen built a home on Charles Lockhart Survey land they bought from Orlando Jones on August 29, 1849. The house stood about one mile north of where Thomaston is now located and east of the early-day Victoria-Gonzales public road (present day highway 87) and facing west toward it. It was completed in late 1849.

This Pridgen house was of Florida lumber. There were rooms 20' square on the north and south of a 12' hall both up and downstairs. The lower story hall was open on both the east and west ends with a wide interior stairway. A northeast shed room used as combination kitchen and dining room and a southeast bedroom were each 20'x14'. After 79 years of usefulness the sturdy house was completely destroyed by fire on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1928.

V ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

Organizations and Diversions Entertainment and amusing diversions, hardly distinguishable from the more sober tasks of making a living in the early period, reflect what earlier generations required in the way of escape from hardship and fatigue; standards of social behavior are often best appreciated through a study of past and present sport and amusement.

William Ransom Hogan has done a real service in his work, The Texas Republic, a social history, by pointing out the devices of recreation in the days of the Republic. House raisings, house warmings, fishing, hunting, dancing, horseracing, singing, holiday carousing (dances, speeches, patriotic readings, militia drills, prayers), dinners, professional and amateur theatricals, gambling, and general horse-play were all important entertainments for early Texans.

DeWitt County undoubtedly, but to a lesser degree than the more heterogeneous coastal region, provided many of these diversions. Lodges were popular among early DeWitt residents. In 1840 there were 70 Masonic Lodges in the Republic. When James N. Smith lived at Clinton permission was asked of the Grand Lodge for the establishment of a chapter at Cuero (the Friar/Caldwell Store not the railroad town of later years). In 1850 permission was granted and the first DeWitt County Lodge, Cameron Lodge No. 76, was chartered. James N. Smith was Grand Master; meetings were in the upstairs room of the Cardwell Store for four years. In 1855 a fine two-story lodge house was built in Clinton and the chapter moved to that village.

The second chapter, the Coletto Lodge, was established at Yorktown in 1853; it operated until 1869. In 1871 a new lodge, the Yorktown, was begun and maintained for three years without charter.

A Concrete lodge was established as the third of the county in 1855; it moved to Hochheim in 1876. In 1875 the Cameron Lodge at Clinton moved to Yorktown and merged with the latter organization; this lodge continues to the present. In 1874, C. C. Howerton petitioned for a Cuero lodge; permission was granted for this chapter in June, 1874.

An examination of early newspapers and letters indicates that Dr. Hogan's description of social institutions was certainly applicable to DeWitt County. Evidence of horseracing is abundant and with the Wiley Washington Pridgen, Jr. - Jim Brown affair being based as it was on a race horse argument this diversion apparently was serious business. Gambling must have been prevalent at Clinton for James Norman Smith often made the rounds of the "gambling shops" to

invite the gamers to attend church services. Dances were common and not particularly regarded as immoral. Religious sanction of later days has evolved from the changing conditions which dictate such sanctions.

Music and dancing were particularly popular as evidenced by the various Yorktown and Cuero bands that existed from time to time. A number of early county residents were known for their ability to render a good tune. Some had professional training from the very best artists. Serenading was a common pastime. On weekends several young men, armed with adoration and a violin, guitar, banjo, or accordion, would visit the home of a young lady to sing the popular Spanish melodies. Tournaments were often held; once the hanging rings were collected from horseback, the winner proudly paid respects to his lady by offering her a crown and escorting her to the ball which followed the day's events. Daytime and moonlight horseback rides, swimming parties (the early fords were equipped with spring boards), and community picnics were always popular.

Several early stores and taverns were used as public meeting houses where major issues of the day, general entertainment, and special programs were presented. Multiple purpose meeting houses are still used in the northwest German section of the county.

Upper Cuero Creek was an early center of amateur theatricals and sing-songs while Houston, Galveston, and Victoria drew the renown troupers of the day; James N. Smith reports:

... as there were several young men and ladies living in the upper settlement as it was then called the young people would assemble at Mr. Blair's (home) of Saturday evenings to sing... and learn vocal music as Mrs. Smith understood music very well and Mr. Benjamin Craig and a Mr. Ballard from Lavaca River would often come over to sing as he knew the young people very well... after awhile Doctor Duck proposed to my son, James, and the two young Scotchmen (the Grimes brothers) that they should endeavor to establish a theatre... He composed some very good pieces and those who took part would prepare themselves and the singing sometimes gave way to the theatre... large assemblies of young people would attend and be much edified by the performance.

One special play presented to the inhabitants of the Upper Cuero Creek section was entitled, "Recruiting Officers and Men for Indian Warfare." A young congressman from Georgia camping near the

Blair home wore a costume from the Grimes store and played the recruiting officer; his eloquent speech and stirring appeal for volunteers made quite an impression on the audience. One of the Scots took the part of an old lady whose son had volunteered and was leaving for service. "She" admonished her son for his mother's sake never to be wounded in the back. In a pretty dress, James B. Smith acted the part of a young lady over whom two young men had quarreled and fought a duel. This scene was so realistic that for a time the audience was concerned for the safety of the actors. There was no charge for these performances; they were given solely for the pleasure of the audience and the players.

The Thomaston News of September, 1898, printed a typical invitation of a social function:

Fish Fry

School trustees are to have a fish fry at the school house Wednesday evening Sept. 7- Salt-water fish at moderate prices. Honorable Rudolph Kleberg, our popular Congressman, has consented to come make an address. Any other candidates who desire to be present are invited.

Another announcement told of "17 tickets for the excursion to Port Lavaca sold at Thomaston Thursday night September 1, 1898."

A typical local celebration was the golden wedding anniversary of James Albert and Ann John Ferguson McDonald in 1908 (a twentieth century event reflecting earlier times since the commercial and entertainment revolutions had been barely felt). With coachmen in livery and the coach decorated in green and gold the couple were driven to the school house (brightened with evergreens and yellow chrysanthemums) where ushers Jim Pridgen, Jim Moore, and Frank Shanks guided the objects of the celebration down the aisle; they were preceded by Lizzie Moore and Wallace Anderson who scattered gold and green confetti. The flower bearers were Margaret Hart Pridgen and Harriet Brown McManus. The honored partners of fifty years were seated in decorated chairs over which hung a large horse shoe draped with moss, yellow flowers, and sprigs of mistletoe.

The program consisted of a prayer by Jim Moore, piano solo by Ada Pridgen, duet by Kate McManus and Alice McDonald, and solo "Silver Threads Among the Gold" by Maud Butler. Toastmaster was Dede McManus. The toasts were "Friends of Auld Lang Syne" (Jim Moore), "Shall Auld Acquaintance be Forgot" (Ruby Pridgen),

"What is Life Without a Purpose?" (Frank Shanks), "In the Happy Long Ago" (Crockett Pridgen), "Our Parents" (Alice McDonald), "Just Fifty Years Ago" in verse (Julia Anderson), a solo sung by Kate McManus, "When You and I were Young, Maggie." Coffee, cake, chocolate and portions of a fifty candle cake were served to the friends of the couple.

Dr. Robert Peebles, a pioneer physician and political figure of the Texas Republic, who settled in DeWitt County was a participant in an event demonstrating horse-play as an early diversion. During his days in Washington-on-the-Brazos the doctor

... aided the boys in getting rid of a loafer by dissolving nitrate of silver in the water for his bath (his first in many months) which they had persuaded him to take. After exposure to the sunlight, the loafer's skin began to turn dark, and when a plunge in the river failed to deterge his dark coating and his friends were threatening to have him enslaved as a Negro, he departed in great haste.

This practical joke did not take place in the county but it was perpetrated by Dr. Peebles who must have brought his "humor" to his ranch on the Guadalupe River.

Such activities indicate that early DeWitt County was as socially oriented as other regions in Texas and the hardbitten realism necessary to cope with the burdens of economic and political hardship was tempered with as much or in some ways more really human rapport than is possible today when comforts dull our appreciation of a respite from hard work and commercial entertainment subverts the freedom of expression so common in earlier community gatherings.

Education Green C. DeWitt was required by his empresario contract to provide a system of education to teach the Spanish language; a certain portion of each colonial settlement was to be set aside for this purpose. Facing the demanding issues of building homes and defending them, early residents of the DeWitt County region were unable to initiate any program of public education for many years. The South from which they emigrated had little to offer the pioneers in way of educational heritage.

The early schools were conducted in the homes of individuals who were especially interested and/or equipped for teaching. Though it was outside the present limits of DeWitt County the first co-operative effort at education in the general region was the Gonzales Seminary of 1830. For cash or trade the students, as announced in the Texas Gazette, would be exposed to "orthography, arithmetic,

elocution, grammar, astronomy, modern and ancient geography, chronology, general and particular history, ethics, natural and moral philosophy, belles lettres, rhetoric and logic."

James Norman Smith established the first school in what became DeWitt County. On the bank of Cuero Creek near the later site of Concrete Smith opened his school of thirty pupils in 1840; tuition was two dollars per month. Smith reported on several of his students:

I had six boarders who went to school to me. Namely, Josiah, Pipkin, Rufus, and James Taylor- all young men nearly grown and their young cousin Jane Taylor, eleven or twelve years old. Also a little Creed Taylor, a nephew of the others, a son of Mrs. William Taylor. They brought me a few cows and calves to help pay their board. They kept their horses staked out on the grass and rode home every Friday night.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith Calhoun taught a similar school on nearby Deer Creek west of the Guadalupe River beginning in 1846. A decade after James N. Smith's school began Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Connelly conducted classes on Cuero Creek. Other tuition schools were in being in the 1850's and 1860's at Meyersville (Lutheran pastors taught this school), Irish Creek (a Methodist Church building was used), and at Prices Creek (in a log house school).

Rudolph Kleberg related his early experience in the German section of the county:

I learned my a-b-c- 's in a little log school house from the itinerant country school teacher. Later on, however, I had the advantage of excellent private teachers; from Germany young students drifted out into this new county for adventure and fortune. In fact, nearly all of these pioneers were well educated, and their culture as well as their precept and association have left a lasting impression upon me. . .

On my rambles after the sheep and livestock, I carried along and read the "Neibellungen Lied", Shiller's "Robber's," Wallenstein's "Lager," etc. and from my mother I learned to sing "Mignon," "Des Maedchen's Klage," Loerner's War Songs, and Att's and Schubert's songs, etc., while from my father I caught the dashing and spirited words and melodies of the German students' songs. . . . When I was about eight years old, I took lessons from Mr. J. Meyer of Yorktown,

Texas on the flute. . . I soon managed to play in concert and was fond of improvising a second to my older brother's first flute. . . it was not long when our flute duets were much admired by the family as well as the neighbors.

I was also fond of general literature, history, languages, and poetry, and I took advantage of our father's library which although small was well selected. Our private teacher, Albert Schultze, was a man of fine attainments. He wrote a beautiful hand, was a fine mathematician, and a walking lexicon of history. From we learned early Grecian mythology, ancient and medieval history, geography, and of course, reading, writing, and grammar.

In 1839 a law for reserving three leagues in each county for primary schools or academies was passed; a year later one additional league was set aside for education. Statehood brought only scant attention to public schooling. By 1854 action was taken to inaugurate a county school system. In 1852 public lands were being located carefully, and in 1854 the county commissioners provided for reporting to the General Land Office the location of their public school lands (sites were made definite on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River - four leagues in James and Taylor counties).

The Texas law of 1854 provided for the establishment of common schools; the state treasurer was to be ex-officio superintendent; the county judges and commissioners the local school board empowered to divide the counties into districts and to hold elections for each district (three trustees for each of the districts). In April, 1854, DeWitt County laid out 13 districts and held elections. Two years later a revision of the state law decentralized the supervision of education.

The following statistics reflect financial or enrollment conditions just prior to the Civil War: 1855 - \$256.16 - pro rata .59 1/2 per child - 434 children 6 to 16 years of age - 13 districts ranging from 7 to 50 children; 1857 - \$619.47; 1859 - \$758.72.

To qualify teachers a February, 1859, provision directed the establishment of a board of examiners. L. L. Williams, W. R. Friend, and H. C. Pleasants of Clinton served on this board; they examined applicants and issued certificates indicating the degree of competency and grade level of the teacher.

The Civil War brought a reorientation of interest from local improvements to the war effort, but in 1861 the county had 13 schools; a year later there were 15. Other developments of the sixties included the establishment of Victoria's Viola Case's School for Females at Clinton to escape the threat of invasion nearer the coast. Yorktown school (begun in 1855) was enlarged in 1866 and the genesis of

Concrete College, Concrete Academy was taught by Rev. J. V. E. Covey from about 1864 to 1865 when the school was destroyed by fire.

Though Reconstruction is traditionally viewed by southerners as an era of exploitation and degradation still a number of reforms, perhaps inadvisedly superimposed on unwilling subjects, were effected. Schools of a really public nature first emerged in the South during the post-Civil War days. In 1866 the Texas Constitution (replacing the Confederate document and being of the "Johnson" variety) reinacted the earlier (1854) centralized educational system; in 1867 DeWitt County districting was completed under the new law and a Board of School Examiners was inaugurated (James T. Kilgore, William R. Friend, John W. Stayton). Sub-districts were organized based on justice of the peace precincts. This 1866 constitution was superseded by that of 1869, and a revised districting and slate of officers was accomplished under the more recent constitution (the "black and tan" document which, even with a number of excellent provisions, was much reviled because of the electorate which lay behind its drafting).

In 1874 James H. Moore began teaching Thomaston's first public school; Cuero's Nash Academy operated from 1873 to about 1892. The 1876 school law established a state board with no definite school boundaries (a law likely reflecting the then adamant desire to "redeem" the political institutions from the "reforms" of the late 1860's).

The 1884 school law provided for an elected state superintendent, counties to be divided into districts, a \$.20 on \$100.00 valuation (to be approved by 2/3 of the property owners) and a state tax of \$.20 on \$100.00 valuation to support schools for six months of each year. DeWitt County selected the alternative of a district system. In August, 1884, the county election in DeWitt County filled the three trustee posts in each of the 14 districts then organized.

At the turn of the century independent districts began to appear. In 1892 Professor Tom Colston became Cuero's first superintendent of public schools. There were 45 community schools in 1906 with independent districts at Yoakum.

were attending the county schools; in 1879 the records were more detailed: male white students - 560, female white students - 587, male colored students - 287, female colored students - 298, number white children (8 to 14 years old) unable to read - 152, number of colored children unable to read - 415. There were 47 school communities in 1879 (33 white and 14 colored). Twenty-three white men were employed as teachers (avg. salary \$45.00 per month); 10 white women teachers earned approximately \$32.00 per month;

10 colored teachers (9 men and 1 woman) earned about \$42.00.

In 1889 the following attendance reports were recorded: White Schools: Cuero 117, Thomaston 171, Terryville 54, Stratton 89, Tonqua 137, Hochheim 268, Concrete 140, Arneckeville 152, Meyersville 124, Clinton 94, Bellview 35, Shiloh 140, Weldon 101, Garfield 95, Yorktown 338, Oakdale 91; Colored Schools: Cuero 232, Thomaston 55, Stratton 39, Tonqua 25, Hochheim 158, Concrete 150, Arneckeville 56, Clinton 43, Bellview 51, Shiloh 22.

A course of study was adopted in 1911; a classification of facilities (all high schools were of the third class which meant that at least one teacher held a certificate of the first grade of the high school level) was made at that time: Colored Schools Primary: Peebles Farm, Nordheim; Intermediate: Westhoff, Schleicherville, Clinton, Hopkinsville, Hochheim, Big Brushy, Concrete, Evergreen, Terryville, Lockhart, Ebenezer, Leesville, Westville, Thomaston; High Schools: Province Hill, Pleasantville. White Schools: Intermediate: Valley View, Guilford, Nopal, Davy, Weldon, Lost Creek, Friedland, Garfield; High Schools: Cheapside, Westhoff, Cabeza, Callahan, Clinton, Taylor Ranch, Heinzeville, Oakdale, Twelve Mile, Arneckeville, Golly, Green DeWitt, Meyersville, Hochheim.

The following persons either taught or applied for teaching positions in one of the DeWitt County schools from about 1861 to 1949:

Adkins, Isabell	Boetcher, C. F.	Burdette, Bilds
Albertson, Jennie	Bomba, Carrie	Burnett, J. R.
Alexander, Alice	Bomba, Josie	Burns, C. J.
Alexander, Willie	Borden, Alma	Busby, B.
Asberry, John	Borland, Nellie	Calhoun, E.
Austin, W. A.	Brady, Will	Calloway, Maggie
Bagby, Miss A.	Brewer, Prof. E.	Cameron, C. M.
Bagkin, R. L.	Brewer, Mrs. M. E.	Cameron, D. L.
Barthers, H. O.	Brewer, Minnie	Cameron, L. C.
Bartlett, H. O.	Broner, N. C.	Caniel, A. B.
Battles, Valentine	Bronson, Jessie	Caniel, W. D.
Bealy, Berry	Brown, J. E.	Canihan, Addie
Beason, George	Brown, Miss Lulu	Carroll, D. R.
Bellfield, Cora	Brown, M. B.	Carroll, J. Wm.
Bernstein, Max	Brown, Miss N. C.	Champion, _
Berry, Ida	Brown, W. C.	Chess, Miss F.
Berryman, Josie	Browning, Miss L.	Clampet, G. W.
Beny, Ida	Bryant, W. R.	Clark, Katie
Betts, Mrs. J. K.	Buch, Gus	Clegg, Maurine
Black, _	Buch, Jason	Coats, A. M.
Boal, J. L.	Buchanan, Lenora	Cobb, Horace
Boals, Prof. _	Buck, J. C.	Coffey, William

Coleman, Maggie
 Colston, Prof. T. M.
 Coppedge, Ettie
 Covey, Joe
 Covey, Legrand
 Cox, Sevelia
 Crawford, Miss M.
 Crisp, William
 Crow, M. B.
 Damstron, Clara
 Daule, E. A.
 Davis, L. G.
 Day, Eliza
 Delony, J. M.
 Delony, Lewis H.
 Delony, Myrt
 Doule, E. T.
 Dogle, Maragaret
 Dohlman, Miss F.
 Donnel, James
 Duggle, Julian
 Erb, A. B.
 Eberhardt, Meta
 Ebert, Henry
 Ener, Lena
 Edgar, Abbie
 Engelke, _____
 Engelking, F. C.
 Eumills, Rachel
 Evans, Lula
 Fennell, Rachel
 Ferguson, Anne
 Feuss, Alvine
 Finch, Janie
 Fitzgerald, A. W.
 Fleming, W. S.
 Folsom, Mrs. _____
 Foster, Cristina
 Fox, Otto
 Francis, Josephine
 Fudge, Lenora
 Galle, Irma
 Galle, Lula
 Garrett, J. G.

Gates, S. H.
 Gerhardt, E.
 Gertsman, Martha
 Gladden, Thomas
 Glumaz, Nellie
 Glup, W. T.
 Goode, Mrs. Lester
 Granberry, Dora
 Granberry, John
 Granberry, Laura
 Grant, Jason
 Grant, Miss Rosalie
 Grass, F. W.
 Graves, Rev. Z. B.
 Graves, W. H.
 Griggs, C. H.
 Griggs, E. J.
 Griggs, N. O.
 Guenther, J. J.
 Gullitt, T. A.
 Hale, W. J.
 Hamblen, Sallie
 Hardt, Alfreda
 Hardt, Lina
 Harper, A. A.
 Harper, A. A. (Miss)
 Hartfueled, Turna
 Hartman, Nora
 Haskell, Eltie
 Haskell, L. L.
 Haskell, Lena
 Hayden, Miss L.
 Hedgra, L.
 Henderson, A. E.
 Henderson, Nellie
 Henry, K.
 Henry, Mamie K.
 Hewell, Lida
 Hill, Clyde W.
 Hoch, Annie
 Hodges, Mattie
 Hodges, T. C.
 Hoff, S. F.
 Holzapfel, Emilie

Hogan, Frank
 Hopkins, Sampson
 Howard, D. C.
 Howard, Ethel
 Hodges, F.
 Huff, S. F.
 Humphreys, Maggie
 Isaacs, C. P.
 James, G. W.
 Jameson, V.
 Jaeggli, J. T.
 Johnson, H. H.
 Johnson, Julia
 Johnson, Pat
 Jones, G. W.
 Kanarsky, G. W.
 Kant, Laura
 Kennedy, Jennie
 Kenny, H. B.
 Kent, Laura
 Ketchens, F.
 Kiehl, H. G.
 Kilgore, Carrie
 Kilgore, T.
 King, Celina
 King, J. R.
 King, Mrs. J.
 King, Margaret
 King, Nancy
 Kitchens, F.
 Knig, Mrs. J. A.
 Kuehne, J. M.
 Kyle, Fannie
 Langley, George
 Lavender, G. K.
 Ledbetter, C. M.
 Leas, W. A.
 Le Gender, J. V.
 Lightfoot, L. W.
 Lightfoot, T. W.
 Lillie, Felix
 Limm, Gusta
 Lockett, J. R.
 Lott, Emma L.

Louis, Marquis	Nolan, Miss M.	Shluter, S.
Love, Mrs. C. F.	Nunez, Olivia	Shook, M. C.
Lucas, Minnie	Olivet, Mr. —	Shropshire, B.
McCallick, Matilda	Onkin, H. G.	Simpson, H. B.
McClown, A. C.	Palasek, R. J.	Smith, Blanche
McCoy, Amanda	Parrish, A. R.	Smith, M. L.
McIntire, Vida	Parrish, E. L.	Spiney, D. B.
McLeod, T. M.	Parrish, L. M.	Spiney, D. D.
McManus, Jessie	Parr, J. E.	Squires, M.
McMaster, Nora	Partlow, T. A.	Stafford, S. T.
McMaster, O. F.	Paul, August	Stalze, John
McRae, Miss Etta	Paul, R.	Stell, B. F.
McWallace, M.	Peavy, Janie	Stevens, Nora
Mack, Ida	Peck, J. F.	Stone, Stella
Magee, Mrs. Edna	Perpener, Bessie	Suhren, Annie
Magee, Monroe	Perryman, Janie	Sumners, Sue
Martin, M. M.	Petercon, P. B.	Sweeny, A. C.
Martin, T. J.	Pflug, Miss F.	Swenney, L. H.
May, Georgia	Poth, E. B.	Taylor, M. W.
Meadow, L. E.	Poth, E. W. Potts	Taylor, Mrs. S.
Mentzler, L. C.	Potts, T. M.	Tennell, Rachel
Middlebrook, Mae	Power, Mattie	Thomas, Bess
Midow, Lewis	Power, Mildred	Thompson, Miss H.
Moffeld, Lojis	Price, G. L.	Tippens, S. C.
Mofit, Chas.	Pridgen, Warren	Timmens, S. E.
Moore, Mrs. B. R.	Pridgen, Jennie	Tyson, Lena
Moore, Celestia	Prince, G. L.	Tully, Emma
Moore, James H.	Reid, Helen	Veal, M. B.
Moore, R. L.	Reider, Minnie	Walker, S. C.
Moore, V. L.	Reitzer, Louis	Wallace, Miss Katie
Morgan, John	Riedel, Rosalie	Wallow, M. C.
Morris, R. E.	Riedsel, Miss S.	Weaver, Maggie
Moseley, W. B.	Rohre, Miss M.	Webber, J. A.
Mosley, William	Rtuzer, Louis	West, A. S.
Murphree, Annie	Schack, Adolph	Wethers, T. E.
Murphree, Nellie	Schleicher, Lola	Whitby, J. B.
Nau, Miss H.	Schmidt, F.	White, Mrs. Eva
Neighbors, Belle	Schmidt, F. G.	White, J.
Newmann, B. F.	Schmidt, Prof. Otto	White, Mrs. K.
Novle, Florine	Schorlemer, W. L.	White, L.
North, Thomas	Schwab, H. O.	White, Maggie
Norwood, G. E.	Schwab, J. W.	White, Pattie
Norwood, R. H.	Shanks, Frank R.	White, Sophia
Nolan, Miss Adaline	Sheffield, J. W.	White, Virginia

Whitfield, N. S.
Whiting, L. D.
Wilby, J. B.
Wild, E. J.

Willbanks, Mrs. A. W.
Williams, A. B.
Williamson, Dr. J. P.
Wood, Ora

Woodson, Alma
Wright, H. T.
Wright, W. G.
Wyatt, T. W.

The rural school system, in full operation by the 1880's, served to educate adequately young DeWitt County residents until the 1940's when the impact of transportation facilities, the need for more specialized curriculum, and other advantages of consolidation brought about the decline of that type of organization. After the latter decade more and more of the following rural or community school houses stood as vacant, mute witnesses of the past:

Rural School Summary: Arneckeville (1890-), Bear Creek School (1887-1935), Big Brushy (1909- ?), Blue Mott (1898-?), Buchel (1894-1950), Buesing (1914-1950), Cabeza (1888-1951), Callahan (1880-1945), Center (1902-1945), Chicotele (1880-1942), Clear Creek (1886-1951), Clinton (1881-1954), Concrete (1880-1952), Crossenville (1879-1925), Davy (1886-1950), Edgar (1880-1951), Friedland (1898-1950), Garfield (1891-1952), Gohlke (1900-1950), Golly (1884-1946), Green DeWitt (1894-1950), Guilford (1898-1942), Heinzeville (1888-1950), Hochheim (1875-1951), Hochheim Prairie (1893-1950), Hopkinsville (colored) (1898-?), Lander (1905-1944), Lindenau (1893-1954), Lockhart (1902-?) Lone Tree (1896-1950), Metting (1914-1950), Meyersdale (1923-1951), Meyersville (1889-), Morris (1891-1950), New County Line (1919-1950), Nopal (1902-1925), Oakdale (1886-1923), Pleasantville (colored) (1904-?), Prairie Hill (1897-1950), Prairie View (1900-1950), Ratcliffe (Five Mile) (1872-1954), Roseville (1874-1950), Sandgate (?-1925), Stratton (1891-1951), Sunset (colored) (1884-?), Terryville (1880-1950), Thomaston (1874-1949), Tonqua (1878-1944), Valley View (1900-1950), Wallis Ranch (1886-1850), Weldon (1894-1950), Westhoff (1908 -), Westville (colored) (1887 - ?).

In 1959 W. F. Hancock, County Superintendent of Schools, reported that:

The DeWitt County rural school system is composed of three consolidated districts: Westhoff, Green DeWitt - Arneckeville, and Meyersville. Each operates an eight-grade school for its white scholastics; Westhoff also has one for its Negro scholastics. The schools have modern buildings with adequate equipment. The three districts have an assessed taxable valuation of \$6,730,000.00 and a scholastic population of 359.

Concrete College and Nash Academy Early Texas history abounds with evidence of the establishment of colleges, universities, and academies which would today correspond roughly with secondary schools. Newspapers of the 1840's listed the various courses (very similar to those taught in the 1860's and 1870's in the later DeWitt County counterparts) and insured the families of prospective students that in addition to the wide variety of academic opportunities available the institution would insist on strict observance of the prevailing moral code.

Concrete College and Cuero's Guadalupe Academy illustrate the types common to earlier settlements, but according to some sources enjoyed a much better reputation as educational institutions. Concrete College had a board of trustees in both state laws of incorporation, and Guadalupe Academy was operated, as was usual, by a proprietor/chief instructor.

Rev. J. V. E. Covey began teaching in the Concrete area about 1864. His first school may have been the college chartered by the State of Texas in 1856. Legend has it that the citizens of the Concrete section hauled lumber from Indianola to build an early school sometime before the Concrete College charter of 1873. At any rate there were two charters for a Concrete College which was operating some time after 1867.

Early Board Members of Concrete College

Hon. F. M. Taylor, Concrete; Dr. W. W. White, Concrete; J. H. Stevens, Esq., Concrete; Dr. R. Peebles, Concrete; Col. R. N. Norton, Hallettsville; T. J. Pilgrim, Gonzales; E. Lewis, Gonzales; Dr. P. C. Winn, Gonzales; Dr. A. D. Paulus, High Hill; Charles A. Kessler, High Hill; James M. Doughty, Rockport; J. W. Baylor, Rockport.

Early Officers and Faculty of Concrete College

Dr. J. V. E. Covey (President); Mrs. J. V. E. Covey (Sewing); Rev. Woodlief Thomas (Vice President, Greek, Latin, Hebrew); Prof. Addison Bonney (Penmanship, Business); Mrs. Eisenmeyer and Miss Tunn (Instructors in Young Ladies' Department); Prof. Charles Young and Prof. Otto Fuchs (Music); Miss Anna Steel and Miss Adelia Deberry (Instructors in Primary Department); Mr. R. M. King (Primary); Prof. Grothus (German); Prof. J. D. Bradfords (Ancient Languages); Prof. J. V. Woolsey (Principal of Commercial School); Prof. Andrew Hueber (Business Department).

Rev. J. V. E. Covey was born February 11, 1821, in Fenner County, New York. He graduated from Madison (Colgate) University in 1845 and was granted a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1877. From

1846 to 1849 Dr. Covey was president of Campbell Academy in Tennessee; he moved to Texas in 1854 and served as president of a school in Palestine while preaching as a Baptist minister. He continued his pastoral duties while a member of the Board of Trustees of Luther Rice Baptist Female College at Marshall, Texas, and later as a teacher at Trinity, Texas. By 1857 Dr. Covey was residing at Hallettsville and serving as President of Alma Institute; about 1864 he moved to Concrete and after the closing of Concrete College in 1881 he moved to Tilden. The reverend preached along with his educational duties until his death in 1898 at Cotulla, Texas.

Reverend Woodlief Thomas was a native of Tennessee; he was born in 1828. He graduated from Wise College and Union University; serving as pastor of an ante-bellum church in Austin, Texas, he was among the many friends of Sam Houston. After the Civil War (Rev. Thomas served as a chaplain) he married Jane Covey (1865) and for 16 years taught on the Concrete College faculty as an instructor in mathematics. In 1879 Mr. Thomas represented DeWitt County in the State legislature.

J. P. Woolsey instructed for a time in Concrete College and thereafter conducted a school under his own supervision (Grove Academy) at Oakland, Colorado County.

The Concrete College had primary, intermediate, and college departments. After some years of operation students were restricted to those over 12 years of age. The scholastic year was divided into two sessions of 20 weeks each with no school vacations.

Prominent characteristics of the institution were promptness on the part of teachers and pupils, kind but decided discipline, and respect for the prevailing moral and religious sentiment. All religious faiths were respected, but the college was Baptist-oriented.

Boarders awoke to a bell at 5 a. m. ; there were supervised walks and exercises and the breakfast hour before the devotional period in the college at 8:00 a. m. Classes began immediately after the morning devotionals. Evening study hours were maintained from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. All students were required to attend Sunday School and church services.

The physical facilities of the college included a building 200 feet by 50 feet, extending north and south; a dining room and kitchen were attached to the main building. The dining room was equipped with two long tables, one for boys, another for female students. Dr. and Mrs. Covey presided at the boys' table, Mr. and Mrs. Woodlief Thomas at the girls'. The campus was surrounded by shade trees and sufficient space for outdoor games (popular at the time were townball, jackstones, roly-holly, and foot races). Truck farming was carried on by the students on land behind the college buildings.

Rock for constructing the main building and dormitories was carried from the hills near Hochheim. Female dormitories were maintained in the Covey and Thomas homes; male students lived in a number of two-room frame houses. Over one hundred students boarded at the college during the days of its peak enrollment.

Boys and girls had separate recreational, dining, and classroom facilities. Boarding students paid \$150.00 for the twenty-week session; this fee included tuition (in the literary department), board, and laundry. Students were required to furnish their own mattress, bedding, and towels; no uniform was required but the students were expected to dress in the conservative mode of the day; wearing jewelry was forbidden.

Tuition rates per twenty-week session were \$10.00 for the primary departments, \$15.00 for preparatory courses, \$20.00 for college level work with German, French, or Spanish \$10.00 additional fee; for music (piano, organ, violin, flute or guitar) the extra fee was \$25.00. Representative of the texts were Montieth's Geography, Clark's Grammar, Webster's Blue-Back Speller, and Davies' System of Mathematics. The lecture method was used in classroom instruction. Students wrote and ciphered on blackboard and slates. Pencils, pen, and ink were used for special assignments.

Average attendance was approximately 150 boys and 20 girls. The sessions of 1873-1874 were the most successful; two hundred-fifty students and twelve instructors were engaged in course work at this time. The college was flourishing when in February, 1871, an epidemic of measles struck the student body; several died of the disease. In 1872 a "new" disease (influenza), termed "Epizootic" by local doctors, took the lives of several more young men and women.

Brief Extract from Student Regulations

No firearms were permitted on the campus;
No students were permitted to leave the campus without permission;
No gambling of any nature was permitted on the campus;
Smoking was prohibited;
Loud conversation and profane language were prohibited;
Male and female students were never to meet except in class.
All forms of alcoholic beverages were forbidden (laws of 1866 and 1873 defined and made careful exceptions to this rule).

Scores of early DeWitt County young people and others from

distant sections of the state attended Concrete College during the fifteen years of its operation. Found in the long lists of those in attendance at one time or another are John Ishmier (state department official during World War I), Congressman Rudolph Kleberg and William Henry Crain. On January 18, 1869, Dr. Covey presented Rudolph Kleberg a Bible as a reward for scholastic achievement.

Soon after the railroad town of Cuero was established in 1873 and Prof. D. W. Nash opened his school there, attendance at Concrete College began to decline. In 1881 the Covey's moved to Tilden where another academy was begun. The old rock main building at Concrete has since crumbled away and its debris used as road surfacing. The Covey and Thomas homes and dormitories were partly standing in the 1940's. Concrete College, though long extinct lives in the memory of many DeWitt County residents descendent from those on whom it had such a profound effect.

The Cuero school taught by Professor D. W. Nash from 1873 to about 1898 was first known as Professor Nash's School, then the Cuero Institute, and lastly Guadalupe Academy.

The following sketch from the Cuero Star depicts the school and its proprietor:

Professor D. W. Nash, Principal of Guadalupe Academy, has a long and honored record as an educator in South Texas, his school work in this city dating back to 1873. Probably no teacher in this part of the state can contemplate the lives of so many of her prominent and useful citizens in whose intellectual endowments and destinies he has played so conspicuous a part. Except for four years when he was postmaster under the second Cleveland term, his labors have been exclusively in the school room since his advent in this city. Prof. Nash is a native of Petersburg, Va., where he was born in 1847. He was educated at Richmond College in that state. Prof. Nash has held various offices in the city of Cuero and has been very closely identified with public affairs, both in this city and county. In all questions of public policy he wielded a large influence and was probably more generally and freely consulted than any other man in the county. Besides a good home and other desirable property in this city, Mr. Nash owns the commodious building in which the Guadalupe Academy is conducted by him. He has always taught a prosperous school, and for the past two or three sessions large numbers of bright and promising young men have matriculated in his academy from neighboring counties.

Probably no private school in South Texas is enjoying a better and more satisfactory patronage at this time than the Guadalupe Academy. The large numbers of men of mature years, in this part of the state, who owe their educations and success in life so largely to Professor Nash, have made it their business to exert their influence to induce young men from every direction to lay the foundation of a successful business or a professional career with Prof. Nash in his academy.

Miss Annie Murphree, a teacher in the Nash Academy reported that students attending the school in 1894 were the following: Jane Dahlman, Ollie Stell, Hilda Reiffert, Erma Buchel, Alfreda Dahlman, Alice Thornhills, Julia Graves, Maggie Smith, Jamie Breeden, Jennie Nash, Lila Warn, Tillie Kleberg, Lissie Clark, Katie Terry, Illa Blackwell, Jim Bell, Mayne Wofford, Lula Kleberg, Agnes Warn, Alma Reiffert, Josephine Wofford, Sallie Bell, John Wofford, Will Heard, Willie Clampit, Edwin Blackwell, John Irvin, Harmon Frobese, Charles Wofford, Oscar McMaster, Earl Benbow, Willie Graves, William Henry Crain, Stayton Breeden, Alfred Kleberg, George Smith, Freddy Mugge. Earlier students included Lena Tyson, Towena Tyson, Mollie Thomas, Lou Wofford, Jessis Wofford, Jennie Weldon, Betty Hunter, Charles A. Sumners, Cary Bell, Hodge Bell, Frank Crain, and Stayton Weldon.

Religious Developments Earliest accounts of Texas religious life show the colonial requirement of profession of the Roman Catholic faith to have been perfunctory. However, to preclude conflict with Mexican officials Stephen F. Austin discouraged protestant missionary work until after 1834 when religious toleration was enacted; still, there were few formal services before 1845. In DeWitt County and throughout the settled regions of Texas initial ceremonies were conducted in schools, homes, or out-of-doors. Faced with necessities of providing sustenance and shelter for their families pioneer DeWitt County residents deferred the erection of log, frame, or stone churches until community life was ensured.

At the time Texas separated from Mexico there was probably only one out of ten Texans formally alined with a church organization; this is accounted for by the facts of a lack in opportunity and on the part of some outright aversion. Nevertheless, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and other sects were active.

The major protestant churches in DeWitt County displayed the common frontier characteristic of co-operation. More often than

not the Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, and Baptists agreed to share ministers and worship facilities. These congregations and their dedicated pioneer ministers benefited jointly from the early institutions of the log cabin church, brush arbor, camp meeting conversion, and revealed religion.

Presbyterians erected their first church in Texas at San Augustine in 1838; the first ministers to visit the DeWitt County region were of this faith. Evangelist J. M. Atkinson came in 1839; William C. Blair and Steven F. Cocke of Victoria, in 1840; Dr. Daniel Baker, evangelist, in 1848. The missionary brothers, John M. and Finis E. Foster, organized a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the Upper Cuero Creek settlement in June, 1841; in 1961 it continued as the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., at Hochheim.

William C. Blair organized Live Oak Church in July, 1849; it was the Clinton Church until 1883 when it was relocated and continues at present as the First Presbyterian Church of Cuero. Representative of early day ministers were Joel Titus Case, James M. Connelly, John N. McCain, William E. Caldwell, and A. H. Porter McCurdy.

James N. Smith and Miles S. Bennet were the first Presbyterian elders in the county and both were present at Victoria in 1851 when the Presbytery of West Texas was formed. Bennet traveled the next year to Charleston, South Carolina, where he served as the first Texas delegate to the General Assembly from that Presbytery.

Concrete had a Presbyterian Church (1853-1883); Thomaston (1880-1923); Westhoff for a number of years. Yorktown's Presbyterian Church still has a resident pastor and regular services.

The circuit rider used by the Methodists was especially well-suited to frontier conditions. Circuit rider John P. Sneed was at work in the Upper Cuero Creek settlement as early as 1841 and established the area's first camp-meeting ground. Rev. Sneed was described by a Methodist bishop as "... a man who is not afraid to die or sleep in the woods." Circuit rider John Wesley de Vilbiss was in the area as early as 1845. The Concrete Methodist Church was organized in 1847; it was especially active in the 1880's and was discontinued about 1900.

The Shiloh Methodist Church was maintained from 1852 to about 1900. Irish Creek Methodists organized and built the county's earliest frame church in 1853. Rev. Thomas Cook was its first pastor; Rev. M. A. Black was pastor when it became Burns Station Church in 1873; this church was very active in the 1870's and early 1880's and was closed in 1895. Clinton had a Methodist organization that began in the 1850's and continued through the 1870's. Pierpont

Place Methodist Church served the area near the junction of the 5-mile and 12-mile Coleta Creeks during the years 1858-1870; Humphrey Heard who helped to organize this church was probably its first pastor.

Hochheim German Methodist Church was organized in 1864 and served the community for a number of years. Rabke, in the 5-mile Coleta Creek area, organized a German Methodist Church in 1890; it maintained a resident pastor and had regular services for many years and continues to offer occasional services.

Methodists established a church at Terryville prior to 1870; it was especially active during the years 1880-1910 after which it declined. It was discontinued in 1940.

Clear Creek Methodist Church was built in 1889. Sunday School and afternoon church services were conducted in it. There were no regular pastors; ministers of all denominations were invited to preach from time to time. Hat collections were taken up for the speakers. In 1895 Rev. Hodges (Methodist) held a revival meeting. This Clear Creek work continued for many years.

Beginning in the 1890's, Methodists held services in the school-house at Cabeza. In 1902 they established camp-meeting grounds close to Cabeza Creek and for many years thereafter held well-attended camp revivals each summer.

Thomaston Methodists organized in 1873 and were active until about 1935. A few faithfals carried on until the church building was destroyed by the hurricane of August, 1942. Then they transferred membership to nearby Nursery in Victoria County.

In 1961 there were only three regularly active Methodist churches in DeWitt County: Yorktown, Cuero, and Westhoff.

Some thirty Polish and German Catholic families settled in the Meyersville area about 1856. This immigration was the genesis of a Polish and a German Catholic church. The Polish Church was a mission of Panna Maria in Karnes County. It remained small and never had a resident pastor. The Polish families drifted to Yorktown and the church was closed in 1900; the building was later moved to Yorktown.

The Meyersville German Catholic Church had its beginning in late 1858 when Rev. C. Mueller of Victoria began celebrating Mass in the home of Peter Bluntzer, the area's first German Catholic settler. The Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church was completed and the first Mass celebrated in it on November 1, 1859, by Rev. J. Koenig. He came from Victoria once a month until Rev. P. Richard became resident pastor in 1867.

A report of 1950 states, "Sts. Peter and Paul Parish numbers about 50 families; it has a resident pastor; has a commodious church

building of re-enforced concrete with outer walls of white stucco; also has a rectory, a parish hall (the old school building) and a cemetery." It continues with about the same facilities at the present. Throughout the century since its founding, pastors and members of Sts. Peter and Paul have co-operated and enjoyed excellent relations with those of St. John's Lutheran Church at Meyersville.

Holy Cross Parish at Yorktown began as a mission of Meyersville in 1866; during the year 1868 it had Rev. John Frydrychowicz as resident pastor. The parish then became a mission of Panna Maria of Karnes County. In 1897 the resident pastor, Thomas Moczygamba, began his pastorate of fifteen years, during which time he secured the Incarnate Word Sisters to teach in the parochial school which had been established in 1865. Holy Cross Church continues with a full-time resident pastor and a modern brick church.

Mission Church of St. Louis at Yorktown was established in 1929 for Latin-Americans; in 1950 this church was serving 110 families and continues at present.

Several Catholic families were in Cuero in the spring of 1873; others soon followed. A Catholic church site was obtained in 1875 and a frame building was erected in 1876; Rev. V. L. Nanci became resident pastor of St. Michael's Parish at this time. A parochial school, started in 1877, has continued through the years and since 1950 has a very modern and well-equipped building. During the pastorate of Rev. John Sheehan a new church and rectory were completed in 1892. St. Michael's continues with a large membership which worships in a modern brick church.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, a mission of St. Michael's Church, was established in February, 1925, by Rev. Francis Pallanche "for the 425 Latin-Americans who lived in Cuero, claimed to be Catholic, but only a few of whom attended St. Michael's Church." The parish proved successful; in 1950 there were 300 families and 200 children receiving religious instruction. A resident pastor continues the work at present.

St. Anne's Catholic Church is in the Hochheim Prairie Community; it was established in 1906 with 21 Catholic families. In the 1940's there were 88 families in the church. In 1945 the church acquired the National Dance Hall and uses this building for recreational purposes. It is still an active church.

The Mission of Westhoff had its beginning in 1911; the Catholic pastors of Nixon have charge of this church which continues in 1961.

St. Ann's Catholic Church at Nordheim was begun as a mission of Runge in 1922. It was a small church until 1941 when it "had a real awakening." A new church building was erected in 1943 and regular services are held; a parish hall provides ample space for

a wide range of activities.

Baptists began early and became well-established in all sections of DeWitt County. They co-operated with the other Protestants in furthering organized Christianity.

The first Baptist Church in DeWitt County was of the missionary variety and established in 1855 at the community of Hebron; Rev. Wade Hollan was pastor until his death in 1869. Records of this church from 1855 to the present (1961) are preserved at Hebron.

Concrete was the seat of special Baptist activity from 1865 to 1881; the Reverend J. V. E. Covey was Baptist pastor and also Concrete College professor and president. He served as pastor of the Cuero Baptist Church (1877-1880). A Baptist Church continued at Concrete until 1948.

In 1880 Columbus Burns built Live Oak Grove Church among the spacious oaks at Roseville, near Cuero. He and his family attended this church. Baptist services continued to be held here until 1913.

The Stratton Primitive Baptist Church was constituted December 1, 1883, by Edgar J. W. Shook and J. G. Curington with the following members: Elder J. G. Curington and wife, Wesley Vick, Sarah Price, J. C. Curington, M. E. Day, and M. J. Curington. Elder J. G. Curington was called to the pastoral care and served until 1893; then Elder Joe S. "Bud" Newman preached for three years. Elder R. W. Harrell was pastor for 34 years (1896-1930) and Elder W. J. Chambers succeeded him.

Pilgrim Rest Church held services in the Stratton schoolhouse until 1912 when the congregation provided a church building. In 1957 (after the Stratton school had been discontinued) the Pilgrim Rest congregation purchased the former school building and used the lumber to construct a church annex. Several improvements were completed prior to the four-day convention of the Southwest Primitive Baptist Association in July, 1957. Delegates from all parts of Texas and Oklahoma "pitched their tents under the stars" at the Pilgrim Church. Three meals were served on the grounds daily and eleven Primitive Baptist elders assisted Pastor Chambers in conducting "down-to-earth, old-time revival services" each morning and night; singing services were held in the afternoon.

Baptist services were held in the Cabeza schoolhouse for a number of years beginning about 1890. Edgar maintained a Baptist Church from 1890-1947; the church building then stood vacant a number of years. The Thomaston Baptist Church (1898-1923) had a small membership; services were irregular a number of years before it disbanded. The Hochheim Baptist Church, organized in 1923, continued active through the 1940's. A small Baptist Church was established at Terryville in the 1940's.

Yorktown and Westhoff continue to have active Baptist congregations. Cuero maintains three Baptist Churches with resident pastors and regular services.

Lutherans are to be commended for successfully and continuously maintaining all the churches they established in the DeWitt County area; regular services and pastors are found today in each original church.

Lutherans established St. John's Church at Meyersville in 1851 and worshiped in a log house until 1866 when it was replaced by an attractive sandstone church (the county's first masonry church). In 1921 a large and beautiful church of tile and cement blocks was erected; the sandstone building was then used for recreational purposes. Through the years resident pastors have held regular services in St. John's. In the early years the pastors taught school in the church on weekdays. A report of 1956 stated that 220 members had been confirmed in St. John's and the church had baptized 290.

Yorktown organized a Lutheran Church in 1857. It continues active. The Zion Lutheran Church was established at Arneckeville in 1865 with Rev. Adam Sager as pastor. The first two churches were built of logs. In 1961 the congregation worships in an attractive frame building which was erected in 1938; they have a resident pastor and regular services. Lutherans held worship services at Cuero as early as 1880, but did not organize until 1886; through the years they have been very active, and in 1961 have a large membership and a very modern church building.

German Evangelical Lutherans organized at Sasseville (later Nopal) in 1895. They had a church building and were active for a number of years. The Lindenau Lutheran congregation was formed in 1902. The ten charter members were John Arndt, Henry Duevel, Henry Mueller, John Leubert, S. Stuetzel, Peter Roggenkamp, John de Reesel, Gerhart Warling, Paul Wehmann, and R. Regner. Until 1919 Cuero Lutheran pastors ministered to the Lindenau Church: Revs. W. B. Utesch, A. A. Hahn, and H. T. Wehmeyer. Lutherans organized both at Nordheim and Westhoff in the early 1900's and hold services at the present.

Cuero Episcopalians met in McCulloch Hall after 1874 under the guidance of Bishop Alex Gregg; in 1877 the first regular rector, T. R. Starr, was appointed. This church continues today with a resident pastor and regular services as the only Episcopal congregation in the county.

A number of Negro church communities have been active throughout the years. Hopkinsville colored community is located in central DeWitt County on the Richard Chisholm Survey, and was named

for the Negro Henry Hopkins from whom five acres of land was obtained for the Antioch colored Baptist Church in 1889 (this church continues today).

Lockhart colored community was begun about 1900 on the Sam Lockhart Survey in northeastern DeWitt County. The New Hope Baptist Church was built in 1903. It and the nearby cemetery continue in use. Thomaston had a Negro Baptist church in the early years; it continues active in 1962.

Westville became populated in the 1880's; it was located about two miles south of Cuero. The Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church held its first meeting in this community in March, 1887. The homes of the community were moved to Cuero, but the church building remained in its original location for 71 years; well-attended services were held throughout this period. In 1958 the church was moved to Cuero and is used today by the members of Mt. Herman Baptist Church.

Pleasantville was a Negro church community, started in the Edgar area in 1904; the Mt. Zion Baptist Church is still active though an earlier school has been discontinued.

The following remarks on religious developments in the early days of the county are presented to give some appreciation of the inspiration necessary to encourage organization and worship.

I (James N. Smith) had a box of Sabbath School books and Mr. Thomas Grimes, one of the Scotchmen who was a pious young man, assisted me in this school. . . . After some time Mr. Grimes proposed we would make it a prayer meeting also which we did and he and myself would hold prayers together with singing and reading of the Scriptures. . . . After Christmas I taught a school near the town of Concrete where it is now located. . . my old friend Mr. James M. Baker had acted as a class leader in the Methodist Church. . . Rev. Mr. Devilbus rode the circuit. It was a great pleasure to me to find that there was great preaching once a month so near me by both (Methodist and Presbyterian) of the denominations. . . . I went among the neighbors and got them to build a good large hewed log meeting house and the owner of the land whose family had joined Cumberland Presbyterian Church made a deed to a few acres of land to that church. . . A few weeks after the Rev. Daniel Baker held his protracted meeting near my house at Cameron. . . . I wrote to Rev. Dr. Blair to come and organize a Presbyterian Church as there were a few members of that denomination in the neighbor-

hood. He set up an appointment and we met at the house of Doctor Peebles whose wife was a member. . . . as the Doctor's house was the largest one in the neighborhood. . . We had seven members - Mr. Miles S. Bennet and wife also his daughter, I believe, myself and wife and my daughter Elizabeth H. Calhoun. Mr. Miles S. Bennet and myself were elected and Mr. Bennet was ordained Ruling Elders in said church. Mrs. Peebles made a motion that the church should be called or named Live Oak Church and it was so called. . . This was the first Presbyterian Church of the Old School Presbyterians in DeWitt County.

In the fall of this year (1851) the Western Texas Presbytery met in Clinton. . . we had no church building or Court House of any size in Clinton. . . I had a tent made sufficient to hold 25 men. . . It was generally full after night on Saturday nights when the preaching was over and the company retired to the tents for sleep. . . There were four preachers and six Ruling Elders and about 10 or 12 more men in the tent.

Whenever we were to have preaching (which was not often) I would go around among the saloons or groceries and gamblers and say to them 'Come, Boys - we will have preaching in the grove today - you must all shut your groceries and gambling shops and come and hear preaching' and they generally took my advice and done so.

Dr. William Carey Crane, president of Baylor University when that institution was located at Independence received news from DeWitt County from F. Fieffer who had made contacts in the region:

I have been laboring at two stations between Victoria and Cuero and I have had some 20 conversions but baptised but four. I will return after the Union meeting and hope to organize a strong church at Thomaston station.

S. S. Cross reported in May, 1878:

I have two days to rest. In the last two weeks I have rested but one night. Last Sunday I was at Concrete. Preached twice in day time and lectured

at night. Too much for a sick man. I lectured four nights in Concrete. I have as a general thing a very full house, but these voluntary collections bring in but little money these hard times. Yet I feel I am doing a great good. In the main I have been very kindly treated. This is one of the hardest places I have met in Texas. Catholics have their own way. Some 10 or 12 weak, no account Baptists. I go down to Victoria from here thence to three other places on this road... then across to Galveston where I will spend a few days and home to hear junior class exercises.

Newspapers A number of papers were published at Cuero prior to 1894. Rudolph Kleberg began printing the Cuero Star, a weekly, in the summer of 1873; by 1885 J. H. Tucker was its editor. Later A. S. Crisp bought the paper and made it a daily by 1900; Crisp continued to publish until his death in April, 1919. J. C. Howerton then purchased the Star from the Crisp heirs and consolidated it with the Cuero Record.

The Deutsche Rundschau, a German paper established by William T. Eichholz, was begun about 1880. During the first World War this paper, then owned by A. E. Fritschie, was converted to the English language and the name changed to the Cuero News. Later it was consolidated with the Cuero Record; A. E. Fritschie became vice-president of the newly-formed Cuero Publishing Company, Inc.

For some years, probably in the late 1880's or the early 1890's, Lee Chaddock published the Cuero Sun. Major Samuel L. Kyle published the Cuero Bulletin from the 1880's until his death in 1894. The Kyle daughters, Lizzie and Fanny, continued the paper for some time; it was then absorbed by the Cuero Star. Fay Carothers published the Constitution, a populist paper, in the 1890's.

The Cuero Daily Record was established in November, 1894, with H. G. Woods as editor, B. S. Wright as mechanical superintendent, and James C. Howerton as business manager. Howerton merged his Daily Hustler, which he had begun publishing in July with the Daily Record.

Mr. Woods sold his interest to his partners in 1904 and went to Seguin where he purchased the Seguin Enterprise. A few years later Mr. Howerton bought Mr. Wright's interests and became sole owner, editor and publisher of the Record. Through the years until his death in 1935, he was a major contributor to the county's development. Jack Howerton, who became his father's successor, was named Texas Newspaperman of the Year in 1953 for his "deeds and services rendered to journalism and mankind."

Outstanding accomplishments of the Record from 1894 to 1962 have been naming and promotion of Cuero's Turkey Trot; successfully advising depositors of H. Runge and Company Bank, which closed during the depression of 1932, to allow orderly private liquidation of assets, rather than court receivership thereby saving thousands of dollars in court costs and attorney fees; winning the coveted Pulitzer Journalistic Award in 1954 for exposure of the Texas Veterans Land Scandal by its managing editor, Kenneth Towerly; and continual encouragement of all aspects of economic and social progress.

The Cuero Record has always been a daily paper, but it also published weekly and semi-weekly editions. It has been published continuously from 1894 to the present; not a single issue was missed during the entire period.

The Guadalupe Valley, a weekly paper, was established by Grady Stiles at Cuero in 1937; W. F. Kautz and Garfield Kiel bought the Valley from Stiles on September 1, 1938, and changed the name to Cuero Standard in 1940; publication was discontinued in July, 1945.

The Thomaston News, a weekly paper, was published 1895-1900. The first editors were Ellis Brooks and Walter Eatman. Editor P. O. Davant took over the paper about 1898; he said the destructive cotton boll weevil "put him out of business" in the early part of 1900.

Beginning about 1908, Walter Eatman published the Westhoff Advertiser for a number of years. Westhoff's destructive fire in 1913 caused the paper to be discontinued. Rob E. Downey established the Westhoff World, May 10, 1929; it survived for three years.

Jim Blanton established the Nordheim View in 1902 and operated it until 1940 when he retired and sold the paper to Mrs. B. H. Morisse; in 1951 she and her brother P. A. Schmidt became partners. They changed the paper's name to DeWitt County View and moved the plant from Nordheim to Yorktown where publication continues today.

The Yorktown News was begun also by Jim W. Blanton; it was a weekly paper after 1895. William Hausman bought the paper in 1902 and he in turn sold it to G. R. Beckman in June, 1912. F. M. Pieper, the fourth owner, became proprietor in 1951. In 1962 the News has two full-time employees, and its circulation is approximately 1,700.

Early Transportation The very earliest method of transportation on the several trails and roads in DeWitt County was walking and carrying as heavy a load as possible. Horseback riding came into use just as early among those fortunate enough to own an animal. Ox-wagons were in use prior to 1836; horse-drawn and mule-drawn wagons soon followed. Horse-drawn stage coaches began crossing the area prior

to 1836; horse-drawn and mule-drawn wagons soon followed. Horse-drawn stage coaches began crossing the area prior to 1846. Buggies and carriages were in use by the 1850's. The first railroad came to the county in 1872 and extended 12 miles within the border to the terminal town of Cuero, established in January, 1873. In 1887-1888 the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad was built across the county from Yoakum (through Cuero, Yorktown, and Nordheim) to San Antonio. In 1906 the Southern Pacific was extended from Cuero through Lindenau, Westhoff, to San Antonio. The Model-T Ford arrived by 1918 completing a transportation revolution.

When DeLeon passed through the country in 1689, he opened the old La Bahia road crossing the Guadalupe at Mission Valley in Victoria County, the Colorado at La Grange, the Brazos at Washington, and the Trinity at Robinson's crossing. As the county became populated the need for roads became urgent. The old La Bahia Road from La Grange to Goliad established by the Spaniards crossed DeWitt County area from northeast to southwest. In 1841 the Victoria-Gonzales Road, passing through the Prices Creek and Irish Creek Settlements was completed. A wagon road from Indianola through Yorktown to San Antonio was completed in 1848. DeWitt County Commissioners authorized the first county road in 1846 to extend from Chisholm's Ferry to Dowlearn's Place (Clinton Bridge to Breeden Farm) and then to connect with the La Bahia Road north of the Guadalupe River. The second of the county roads connected the Gonzales-Victoria route with Hochheim. The surveyors of these early roads covered their own expenses and then, as in the case of Byrd Lockhart, submitted bills to the particular political agency involved; payment was commonly in land grants. These roads were first dirt, then graveled, and lastly hard-surfaced highways.

Byrd Lockhart built a road to Austin via Gonzales just north of DeWitt County in 1825 expending \$400 on construction. His personal services were rewarded with a grant of four leagues of land from the state of Coahuila and Texas. This road was used as a guide in constructing the present road between San Antonio and Austin.

Crossings on the Guadalupe River became an urgent need, for the several fords (Heard Ford several miles below the confluence of Sandies and Guadalupe, Cottingham Ford, at the juncture of Irish Creek and Guadalupe, and Murphree (Power) Ford, located where Prices Creek meets Guadalupe) did not suffice for increased travel. In 1839 Richard Chisholm began operating a ferry in the center of the area. Lip's Ferry (1862) was located near Hochheim and Heard's Ferry (1880) south of Cuero. The earliest bridge was the Schleicher wooden truss bridge near Cuero (1873). The first iron bridge was constructed in 1886. By 1889 there were four iron bridges near Cuero and one at Hochheim; the Thomaston Bridge (1893) was the sixth; all are still maintained. After 1903 Texas counties were authorized to issue bonds to cover road construction. As a result of this the major problem

of county transportation, that of finance, was solved at least as to legal requirements. Between annexation and 1903 the various counties collected road taxes and expended funds through the Commissioners Court. By 1917 the advent of gasoline-powered vehicles required a wider responsibility for road construction and in order to qualify for federal funds a state highway department was established.

Hauling freight was common to the residents of the Coleta area. In fact many of the early pioneers of the German settlements in this section made their livelihood transporting goods from Indianola to San Antonio and often to Austin, Houston, or Matamoras. The journey, round trip, to San Antonio from the Coleta required a full week and the same time was spent on the haul to and from Indianola. These early freighters used horses, but often substituted oxen since they were less expensive to maintain, though much slower.

For protection and companionship several teamsters would co-operate on these hauls, camping out at night near a convenient stream. During the night, the horses were hobbled and turned loose to graze; bells were attached in order to facilitate the morning round-up. Rates for these freighting services varied from \$3 to \$4 per hundred pounds. Goods consisted generally of dry goods, groceries, hardware, and whisky. From Coleta to San Antonio, potatoes and bacon were shipped; cotton and cow hides made up the cargo to Indianola.

Leaving for San Antonio with 4 to 6 animals to a heavy wagon the freighters would travel about 30 miles and camp the first night on the "Clato" (Eclato) Creek. The second night they would camp on Cibolo Creek near Sutherland Springs; on the third night camp was made on Salado Creek within sight of the old "Powder Tower" a few miles outside San Antonio. Next day they would drive into San Antonio by way of East Commerce Street, unload, attend to their business, and load their wagons for the return trip; this night would be spent on the Salado. Three days later they would be back home preparing for the Indianola trip. Because of the thirty-mile stretch of sandy road through Wilson County and because there were no large streams to cross, rainy weather was preferred on the haul to San Antonio; on the Indianola trip however every freighter hoped for dry weather.

Twice a week a stage coach carried passengers and mail from San Antonio to Indianola and return. This stage passed through Victoria, Meyersville, Yorktown, Sutherland Springs, and La Vernia.

In 1871 work was begun to extend the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad from Victoria into DeWitt County. Early in 1872 the building crew, under the management of General McCulloch with Colonel Gustav Schleicher as chief surveyor, reached the Victoria-DeWitt County boundary line. In the Prices Creek area and about a

mile from this border the company surveyed the first railroad station in the spring of 1872 and designated it Thomaston for Colonel Nathan Thomas who sold a portion of the Refugio Amadore survey for a townsite. The northern part of the town was on Charles Lockhart Survey land which was donated by John Patton and Mary Lockhart Wright from land she inherited as a share of her father's headright. The depot was located in this northern section. Thomaston became a thriving little town with good schools and churches and a number of business enterprises. From about 1894 until 1929 a regular agent and telegraph operator transacted the business of the Thomaston railroad station.

Railroad construction continued in a northwesterly direction. In the late summer of 1872 a second station was laid out six miles farther along on Arthur Burns' headright grant on Irish Creek. It was named Burns Station in honor of the Burns family, the first settlers. Burns Station did not prosper long, and even the name became extinct in the early 1900's being changed by the railroad company to Verhelle.

The railroad continued to be mapped out toward the northwest following the public road which had been laid out from Victoria across DeWitt County to Gonzales in 1841. All workmen were eager to finish the last five miles that would bring them to the terminus which was to be located near the Guadalupe River in central DeWitt County on a 640 acre tract of the Jose San Antonio Gonzales Valdez league.

In January, 1873, the terminal townsite was surveyed. The Cuero post office which had been established by the United States Government as DeWitt County's first post office on May 22, 1846, and which through the succeeding years had been located in the Friar-Cardwell store building four miles to the north, was moved to become the post office of the railroad town being laid out and designated Cuero.

The first passenger train ran into Cuero on March 4, 1873. Its crew was Conductor Gould, Engineer Pat P. Smith, Fireman James Mooney, and Brakeman Festus Farnsworth. This Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad ran from Victoria to Cuero, a distance of 28 miles. The first excursion to Cuero was from Victoria on July 4, 1873, with Festus Farnsworth conductor. The train was made up of four flat cars, provided with sideboards (to keep the passengers on board) and benches nailed to the floor; there were open stock cars with canvas covers, one caboose and a regular coach. Passenger rates from Indianola to Cuero were \$4 and from Victoria to Cuero \$3.

Cuero grew rapidly and soon boasted quite a population with many business houses and enterprises, several churches and a good school

taught by D. W. Nash. The town was incorporated April 23, 1873. Through the years it has been DeWitt County's largest town with varied industrial, commercial, educational, and religious facilities.

DeWitt's second railroad came in 1887 and crossed the county from northeast to southwest. This was the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad. It brought about the establishment of Yoakum as the first DeWitt County station for its line, and next Edgar about midway along its course to Cuero. The road continued through Yorktown which had been a town since 1848. In 1895 the townsite of Nordheim, seven miles beyond Yorktown was laid out as the most western DeWitt County station for the railroad which had been completed to San Antonio by 1888.

In 1906 the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad, a branch of the Southern Pacific, which had taken over the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific line, extended the road from Cuero to Stockdale to join the line built from San Antonio to Stockdale and thus was completed another rail connection from Cuero to San Antonio. By this time Indianola had long since been destroyed and trains were running from Houston through Victoria and into Cuero.

The railroad extended from Cuero in 1906 and crossed the Guadalupe just west of Cuero. Lindenau, which had been settled in 1891, became its first station west of the river. Its next station was laid out 15 miles northwest of Cuero on James Bird Survey land on the DeWitt - Gonzales County boundary. Grading for the roadbed was done by mule-drawn "frisnos." This work required a number of workmen and took some time. They pitched their tents and named the temporary community "Tent City." Because of its attractive location in a section of rolling country, the railroad company named its station Bello. The first passenger train reached there August 8, 1906.

The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad crossing DeWitt County from northeast to southwest and the Gulf, Harrisburg and San Antonio from southeast to northwest both passed through Cuero. Each was operated separately until January 1, 1925, when both came under control of the Southern Pacific Company and were jointly operated as Texas and New Orleans lines. Day and night passenger train service was maintained until the routes through Yoakum and Victoria were cancelled on November 15, 1950. Now, except for freight service, DeWitt County is without rail transportation. Mail trucks and rural carriers deliver the mail. Numerous private cars and Continental Trailways and Kerrville buses, running on convenient schedules, serve passengers along the good highways of the county.

Farming and Ranching Residents of DeWitt County have always been primarily dependent on the land. There are four major soil belts in the region: in the southwest is found the Rio Grande Plains type, in the southeast the Forrested Coastal Plain, in the far southeast the Coastal Prairie, and in the northeast the Blackland Prairie. The country rises from the southeast to northwest; the elevation of Cuero is 177, Westhoff 260, Yorktown 266, and Nordheim 400 feet above sea level.

The county's topography is dominated by the Guadalupe River which is fed by the Comal, San Marcos, and San Antonio tributaries and drains an area of 6,000 square miles. With a length of 250 miles the river carries an annual runoff of 1,000,000 acre feet; it is the shortest river in the United States with a comparable runoff volume. Surface water in the county is supplemented by artesian wells up to 1,000 feet deep.

Superimposed on these physical elements is a sub-tropical climate with a growing season of 272 days. The average January temperature is 53 degrees, and the July mean is 85 degrees; over a fifty-two year period the maximum temperature recorded was 109 and the minimum 4. Average precipitation for January is 2.16, for May 3.97, August 2.19, September 3.24, and for November 2.86 inches.

The following selected statistics reveal the increasing acreage and land values: 1847-83, 305 (\$87,558.00); 1860-221,119 (\$975,282.00); 1865-166,816 (\$419,776.00); 1870-275,138 (\$560,806.00). In 1950 total land values were \$22,335,015.00 averaging \$19.04 per acre. Through the years several economic trends are indicated including the depreciation of the Civil War and particularly post-war period when the loss of slave property and lack of man and animal power curtailed production. Town property was recorded in 1859 as 138 town lots with a value of \$28,160.00 and in 1861 as 62 lots valued at \$27,607.00.

The number of farms maintained in DeWitt County has declined while the average acreage and cost per acre have increased: 1920-3,376 farms; 1935-3,873 farms, average size 140.9 acres, total value \$15,575,202.00; 1950-2,428 farms, average size 233.4 acres, average value \$69.92 per acre; 1954-2,213 farms, average size 253.3 acres, average value \$75.10 per acre.

Negro slaves were used by a number of the early settlers and constituted a major portion of the county's wealth and investment prior to 1865: 1847-330 slaves, \$117,216.00; 1859-1,069 slaves, \$566,200.00; 1860-1,362 slaves, \$945,930.00; 1861-1,333, \$746,475.00. The estate of Wiley Washington Pridgen (of Gonzales) who died in 1854 included \$20,000 of Negro slaves (see Appendix) ranging in individual value for a male in the prime of life (17-

30 years old) at well over \$1,000 to females who brought a few hundred dollars less.

Early Texans, like their Anglo-American ancestors, were primarily meat eaters; this mainstay was supplemented at first with the staple of frontier culture, Indian corn. Vegetables were not often found on the pioneer tables (the Germans in Texas excepted) according to the many travelers who visited the Republic during its early days. Habit reaching back to colonial and English heritage explains the Texas diet and though transportation had improved by the 1860's and 1870's there was evidence still of the emphasis on corn and the other staple crop, cotton, which were grown to the exclusion of the other plants.

William R. Friend reported in 1867 that the DeWitt County settlers were growing mostly corn (20-30 bushels per acre) and cotton (ten year average had been 1,000 pounds per acre); corn, he said, had fallen off by 50% in 1867. In the same year only one-third of the land was under the plow as compared to 1860-1861. Cotton production had reached a peak in the county in 1859 with 3,000 bales. Friend also commented that there were no minerals in the county; "several mineral springs of clear, cold, white sulphur water on the Sandies near the line of Gonzales and DeWitt" were used.

Oats, barley, buckwheat and wheat were reported to have been neglected as was generally the case in the rest of the South. Sheep were gaining in importance and good hens were available. Prices were quoted as: corn, 50¢ per bushel; butter 12 1/2¢ per pound; potatoes, 50¢ per bushel; beefs, \$5; pork, 10¢ per pound; bacon, 12 1/2¢ per pound; horses, \$40-\$50 a head; sheep, \$2.50-\$3 a head; cows, \$7 a head; oxen, \$50-\$75 a yoke.

Another account dated 1871 shows the cotton yield at 3/4 bale per acre; corn yield, 25-40 bushels per acre; very little wheat and other cereals and some production of tobacco. Prices were corn, 50¢ per bushel; potatoes, 50¢ per bushel; beefs, \$15; butter and bacon, 12 1/2¢ per pound; oxen \$50-\$75 a yoke; a cow and calf, \$10; sheep, \$2-\$3.

DeWitt farmers were fortunate in that one of the most famous American botanists and agricultural experimenters lived in the vicinity. Gilbert Onderdonk of Mission Valley and later Nursery worked for many years to increase the yield of many useful plants. An example of his work (his publications appeared throughout the United States under national governmental auspices) in the Texas Almanac of 1872 shows the care with which he studied the various grape strains then known. He relates that at Mission Valley he kept some forty to fifty types and through careful selection and observations made considerable progress toward a hardy and reliable vine;

however, he found that the "largest varieties of different kinds of imported fruit, however valuable they may be in the region of their origin, are nevertheless quite unsuitable here." Only after arduous planning could he predict that "when we consider our encouraging beginning, we can look out with confidence and hope upon the vast and interesting field before us."

Until the 1930's cotton was the major crop and contributed most to the county's income: 1858-6, 846 acres in cotton; 1906-39, 030 bales ginned; 1936-4, 501 bales ginned; 1945- 6, 811 bales ginned; 1960-4, 277 bales ginned.

Though cotton production appears to have suffered most since the decade of the 1930's (formerly 200,000 acres had been planted; by 1950 this was reduced to 18,000) it was earlier recognized that its exclusive production was a matter for concern. In 1898 P.O. Davant, editor of the Thomaston News, recorded that he was offered an 18-acre cotton crop for a year's subscription to his weekly paper. The farmer offering the crop explained his proposal, "I estimate the boll weevil have left 18 pounds in the patch."

James H. Moore in the same year announced to his community (Thomaston):

In consequence of nearly a total failure in the cotton crop this year, from the depredations of different insects that preyed upon it, coupled with the low price of cotton has reduced the raising of the plant greatly below the cost of production, hence there is bound to be a meager support for those who persist in raising it. I am not one of those who advocate dispensing with the crop altogether, but I do persist in our farmers diversifying their crops and not to depend upon cotton to the exclusion of everything else. This policy has now become a slow and certain death to the farmer as we all have now learned to our sorrow. Now as facilities and inducements are being offered us and our neighboring towns organizing into what they call 'truck association' I think that Thomaston and her neighboring farmers ought to interest themselves in like manner and see if there is not some way out of the present condition of things. I propose that we call a mass meeting at some time in the future (the sooner the better) and discuss means and measures to this end. So I insist that all farmers will join us in this move, to discuss the matter among themselves, so that all will be prepared to enter into an intelligent discussion of the subject when the meeting is called.

Soon after the turn of the century evidence indicates Mr. Moore's advice to have been followed; general failure of cotton crops and new transportation facilities encouraged diversification. After 1904, when four irrigation plants were operating at Cuero to water 2,100 acres, onions, cabbages, and potatoes were shipped out of the county in quantity; in 1909 300 car loads of the vegetables left the county (200 of these were billed out at Cuero); in 1910 the cotton yield was 1/2 bale, corn 25 bushels, and sorghum 5 tons per acre.

Cattle raising has been basic to DeWitt County's economy since the earliest settlements were founded. Numerous accounts refer to the reliance on the Longhorns which first arrived in the Southwest via Spanish conquests of the early 16th century. James Norman Smith tells in his memoirs of the driving of several thousand head of beeves by early settlers fleeing Mexican invaders; reports from Clinton's "heydays" state that cattle raising was most common to the region; prior to his death in 1859 Daniel Boone Friar was a large-scale rancher in the Yorktown area and Columbus Burns of Irish Creek branded "500 calves in 1862; he sold many cattle to the Confederate Army." The following selected statistics reveal the number and approximate total value of cattle in the county from 1847 to 1954: 1847-5,090, value \$19,931; 1859-31,013, \$190,542; 1860-51,013, \$282,927; 1865-30,559, \$119,657; 1870-66,619, \$177,978; 1954-70,111.

Dr. Walter P. Webb in his chapter on cattle in the Great Plains states that there were perhaps 100,000 head of cattle in Texas in 1830, 330,000 in 1850, and 3,535,768 in 1860. The most rapid growth of the state industry came then in the period 1850-1860; DeWitt County statistics reflects a comparable expansion.

By the 1860's the practice of "cow hunting" and the early sporadic drives had evolved into the typical range system which depended on the use of the horse and a unique person, the cowhand. The range system, the round-up, and trail drives became common to a region extending from the Rio Grande/Gulf Coast of Texas to the northern prairie states; DeWitt County lay along the path of the earliest drives out of the southern cattle country.

Spanish breeds predominated and mixed with those types imported by Anglo-Americans from the southern states. The emergent Longhorn was exceptionally well-suited to its environment; they produced none of the heavy cuts of meat now popular but were sturdy enough to care for themselves and travel many miles to water. They were, according to Colonel Dodge, vicious and ranged in color from black, brindle, dun, red, roan, and white to spotted combinations of these hues; their weight varied from 500 to 1200 pounds and the horns grew to spans up to eight or more feet.

Early drives of beef cattle (in colonial America drives were common but were of a different nature than the "long drive" of the plains) were conducted more than a decade before the Civil War, but these were less profitable and not as regular as those of the 1870's when the range industry reached its peak. Mrs. J. A. Callaway, who was 70 years of age in 1951, recalled a drive in the later days when she was eight years old and attended a DeWitt County School:

You could see nothing but cattle as far as you could see in both directions. The dust boiled up from Big Road (that's what they called Chisholm Trail in those days) and the steady roar of the clicking horns, the bawling steers and the tramp of feet seemed that it would never end. I didn't realize that it was the last such sight anyone would ever see. It was Arthur Burns' head going through the Indian Nation to Kansas City. My teacher was John Burns, who later became a famous Texas doctor. When he saw all those cattle, he told us we might as well dismiss school because we could not hold classes in all that confusion. When the herd of about 10,000 long-horns had passed the trail was a sea of powdered soil, like dry mud.

Roundups and trail drives to the northern rail heads were promoted by the fact that Texas beef worth \$5 brought up to \$50 at the trail's end. After the Indian threat subsided and the Civil War ended, the trails wound their way north (and progressively northwest) to Sedalia, Missouri; Ellsworth, Wichita, Abilene (in 1871, 700,000 head arrived in this town) Dodge City, Kansas, and other termini located farther northwest. A major point for collecting cattle in DeWitt County for the drives up the Chisholm Trail was at the junction of the Sandies Creek with the Guadalupe River where John T. Wofford owned a ranch; stock pens were kept there for many years.

By the 1880's the cattle industry underwent those changes which transformed it from the open-range enterprise to a carefully planned business. Barbed wire, general farming (encouraged by the Homestead Act of 1862), the advent of the railroad, and the economic crises of 1873 and 1885 wrought this transformation. Overstocking, drought, and the impossibility of upgrading beeves on the open range also contributed. By 1885 prices had fallen from \$35 to \$8 a head.

Durhams and Herefords were used to replace the Longhorns in DeWitt County; Shorthorns and Herefords were introduced to Texas by Charles Goodnight and others in the 1870's and by the 1890's the

introduction of the Brahmas had been completed by the managers of the King Ranch. Alex Hamilton imported the first registered Hereford cattle into DeWitt County from Missouri in 1896; he is also credited with having constructed the first dipping vats in the county to rid the animals of the ticks which spread Texas "tick fever." The Hereford breed became more and more popular, and by the 1950's the county had some eight or ten well-stocked ranches using them and the Brahma type.

Following the trail drives, rail facilities were used to transport DeWitt County beesves. About 1890 the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad established a switch siding west of Cuero near the railroad bridge over the Guadalupe River; shipping pens were built there and the beesves loaded for northern markets. Yorktown a few years later (1897) shipped 40 carloads of cattle. Another shipping point was built just south of Thomaston near the DeWitt County boundary in Victoria County; Julia Pens, named for the daughter of Victor Rose, served the stockmen of both counties and thousands of cattle were billed out of the site. Within forty years or so these pens had given way to cattle trucking.

Beef prices ranged from approximately \$3 in the early days of the industry to \$12-\$13 in 1890, and \$75 in 1939; by 1950 cows were bringing \$175 to \$200 and calves \$90 to \$100. The DeWitt County auction quotations in 1955 showed heavy cows bringing \$10.50 to \$12.50 cwt, a cow and calf \$115 to \$135, and good choice calves \$19 to \$22 cwt.

The Cuero Livestock Commission, long operated by Willis Barfield, conducted auction sales for many years. In 1947 the total transactions were 82,000 cattle; in 1950, 100,000 animals passed through the ring. The Barfield interests were sold to Finley and Claude Blackwell and their partner John Huth who now conduct the Friday auctions.

The most recent statistics on Texas cattle raising indicate West Texas to be losing cattle population by tens of thousands while in South and East Texas the herds are on the increase:

of the 14 counties in the state supporting more than 70,000 head of cattle, only two lie outside the Gulf Coast area, . . . Of the heavily laden counties in the Gulf area, only Harris, DeWitt and Kleberg maintained cattle (as of 1961) populations comparable in size to 1900.

Counties farther southeast, eg. Brazoria, Wharton, Colorado, Austin are doubling their herds. Better pastures to the southeast,

especially after the drought of 1951-1957, account for this migration; more generally we are again receiving notice that the scant and even worse, unreliable, rainfall of the Great Plains makes life and prosperity subject to tenuous cycles so often recorded by the western historians.

Jim Bell Ranch In the 1880's James (Jim) Robert Bell, youngest child of James Madison and Miriam York Bell, bought extensive DeWitt County ranch lands in the vicinity of Yorktown. For a number of years he raised Longhorns on his unfenced acreage. In the 1890's barbed wire became available for fencing, and Longhorn gave place to Shorthorn breeds. Jim Bell chose Herefords, and was successful in the ranching business until his death in 1931. His wife, nee Mary Elizabeth Pullen, preceded him in death. Survivors were four sons and a daughter--Frank, Jim, Hodge, and John Y., and the daughter Sarah (Sally) Bell.

Frank Bell (1890-1957) took a very active part in the continued operation of the Jim Bell ranch. "He was one of the typical ranchers who still rode the range; he directed the production of one of the finest Hereford herds in the county. As he would have chosen, he died while observing the herding of his cattle."

By 1961 all four brothers have passed away. The sister Sarah (Sally) Bell still owns a sizeable acreage of inherited land, which continues to be operated as a ranch. James Robert Bell's brand was **B** ; Frank Bell's **TT** (bar eleven).

The Blackwell Ranches Due to ill health William Albert Blackwell, Sr., came to Texas from Princeton, New Jersey, about 1840. His parents bought ranch lands for him on Deer Creek, and young William engaged in raising Texas Longhorns for many years.

William A. Blackwell, Sr., married Jeanette Forbes. Their two sons, William Albert, Jr. and Edwin, inherited their father's ranch. Edwin successfully operated his share until his death in 1940. Since then, his widow, nee Lillian Finney, has managed the ranch.

The ranch that William A. Blackwell, Jr., owned and operated was composed of his share of the Deer Creek ranch and additional acreages acquired from Bell heirs, Charlie G. Smith, H. Runge and Company, Charlie Schastag, John Woods. William A. Blackwell was very particular about the handling of his stock. He was a good horseman and always rode with the men who were working his cattle. He raised high grade commercial and a prize herd of registered Herefords. His brand was **W** (lazy S) on the left loin. He operated his ranch until his death in September, 1958.

Survivors were the wife, nee Anna Reiffert, the son Reiffert T.,

and the daughter Jeanette Blackwell Duderstadt. The ranch continues to be operated (1960) as a trust with Reiffert Blackwell as trustee.

Eckhardt Ranch Interests Robert C. Eckhardt acquired an extensive acreage in the Yorktown area, buying up a large part of it at twenty-five cents an acre; his sons often spoke of him as being land poor. He stocked part of his land with cattle and was among the first of DeWitt County stockmen to begin to "breed out" the Texas Longhorn using fine imported Shorthorn and Hereford bulls. He also bought in a number of jacks of thoroughbred strains and raised many splendid mules. He grazed flocks of sheep on an extensive scale and profitably marketed both sheep and wool. His cattle brand was composed of the letters EK with a heart below, signifying his name, Eckhardt.

Robert C. Eckhardt married Caroline Kleberg, daughter of Robert Justus and Rosa von Roeder Kleberg. Robert C. Eckhardt died in 1887 at the age of fifty-four years. His widow carried on the task of rearing the eleven children, ranging in age from about five years to the early twenties. With the help of the older ones she managed the business interests successfully. All the children were given the opportunity to attend college. The mother lived to see all of them married and rearing children of their own. She died in 1913.

During the years that Mrs. Eckhardt and her sons managed the ranch, considerable improvements were made. The land was fenced, cross-fenced, and part of it put under cultivation; tenant houses were built and three large silos were constructed. The ranch was stocked with Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

For the Christmas market in the year 1914 it turned off the best bunch of polled cattle sold to the Houston Packing Company. These cattle were two years old, averaged 1,196 pounds, and sold at \$8.65 per hundred. This stock was produced and placed on the market by Victor C. Eckhardt. His Aberdeen-Angus steers captured a prize when exhibited at the Fort Worth Stock Show in 1915.

In 1961 the Robert C. Eckhardt Estate was still undivided, owned by the heirs, and being managed by the son, Victor C. Eckhardt.

Caesar Eckhardt Ranch Caesar Eckhardt came to America from Ansburg, Prussia, in 1848. He landed at Indianola and settled at Yorktown where he knew he would find fellow countrymen. The Caesar Eckhardt family at that date consisted of his wife, nee Louise Fischer, and seven children: Robert C., William, Louise,

Emily, Mary, Jane, and Herman. The youngest child, Matilda, was probably born after the family moved to Texas.

At Yorktown Caesar Eckhardt engaged in the mercantile business and farming. The sons, Robert and William, soon joined their father in business; the firm bore the name C. Eckhardt and Sons of Yorktown. Herman became a stockman and died young. The Caesar Eckhardt daughters became homemakers. Louise married Joachim von Roeder; Emily, Gustav Schmelzer; Jane, Edward Fechner; Mary, Robert Gohmert; Matilda, Rudolph Kleberg.

Caesar and Louise Fischer Eckhardt, their sons and their daughters contributed much to the development and progress of Yorktown and surrounding area.

The Friar Ranches Daniel Boone Friar was prominent in the pioneer activities of the DeWitt County area after the 1830's. In 1849 or 1850 he began putting his circle T brand on Longhorns. Soon he acquired a substantial acreage west of the Guadalupe River where he raised cattle with the help of Negro slaves. He died in 1858. The sons, William S., Alfred and Jack continued the Friar ranch business. Two D. B. Friar daughters married stockmen; Julia became Mrs. John H. Shoat and Ella married John Rutledge.

William S. Friar engaged in the cattle business near Yorktown and helped drive his own and neighboring stockmen's Longhorns up the Chisholm Trail in the 1870's. He gave up ranch work about 1885. Then the son John Friar took over the range. After his death his widow, nee Mattie Williams, assisted by the sons Oscar and Guenther, operated the ranch for a number of years. The sons continue (1962) managing these ranch interests.

Sidney Johnston Friar was the oldest son of William S. and Ann Elizabeth Smith Friar. Sidney "Sid" worked as a "cow hand" for his uncle Alfred Friar for four years. He bought 37 head of cattle, a horse, a saddle, and in August, 1886, purchased 320 acres of land east of the Guadalupe River where he "batched" in a small cabin with a stick chimney until he married Annie Williams.

From time to time Sid Friar bought additional land until he owned considerable acreage. In 1913 he leased his holdings and busied himself with other activities until his death in 1931. His brands were ○ (circle) on each hip and 7F (seven F bar) on the right hip.

The son Alfred Friar married Anna Nagel. He inherited land from his father, purchased additional acreage, and has been very successful in a ranching business begun in 1916; he first used "East Louisiana" cattle and later changed to Brahma crosses. Since 1957 he has used Brahma bulls with Jersey cows, principally. For a time he operated three dairies and since 1960, one. The

Alfred Friar brand is a quarter circle on the right hip. He has greatly improved his ranch by clearing it of brush, frequently using rotary cutters.

The daughter, Ann Friar, married J. Carter Thomas and owned ranch land in the vicinity of Concrete. Carter Thomas raises cattle of Brahma-Jersey cross and is well-known for his prize herd of registered ABBA Brahmas.

Ranch Interests of Alex Hamilton and Sons Alex Hamilton grew up on the DeWitt County ranch of his father, John Hamilton. His first venture at stock raising was with horses, which he drove to market in Louisiana over the unfenced lands of Texas and through the marshes of Louisiana.

When they reached the Mississippi River, Hamilton made arrangements for his horses to be ferried across to New Orleans. Confusion and noise of fog horns and boat whistles stampeded the horses and they scattered over the bottom lands. After several days of hard riding, the horses were rounded up and successfully ferried across to New Orleans where they were sold for a good price. The drivers with their saddle horses returned by boat to Indianola and then rode to their DeWitt County homes.

Alex Hamilton sold his interest in his father's ranch to Rufus and Caroline Hamilton Smith (his brother-in-law and sister) and established a mercantile business first at Clinton and later at Cuero. But Alex Hamilton still had a yearning for ranching. By 1890 he had bought up much DeWitt County ranch land which he fenced and stocked with cattle. He contributed to improving the industry by importing registered Hereford bulls and building dipping vats to rid his cattle of ticks and other parasites. He died in 1906.

His widow, nee Annie Thornton, with the help of her sons, continued to operate the ranch until her death in 1913. The sons Thornton and LeRoy still (1960) manage their shares. Since the death of Alex, Jr. in 1952, his widow, nee Claire Wofford, and the daughter Frances and her husband, Gail Oliver, have charge of his share.

Thornton Hamilton used a H brand, Alex Hamilton, Jr., a 80 and later 746 and LeRoy Hamilton 8 and ✓.

Buck McCrabb Ranching Interests John Frederick "Buck" McCrabb (1846-1909), son of John and Mary Miller McCrabb, served in the Confederate Army as a youth; he was stationed on the Rio Grande border.

Buck inherited extensive acreage from his father and in 1884 he and his wife, nee Cora Augustine, moved to the McCrabb home

in the Thomaston vicinity. There, as a farmer-stockman, he spent the remainder of his life.

A publication of 1894 reported: "Buck McCrabb had graded his stock and has about 1200 head of blooded animals." He continuously increased and improved his stock and made a success of ranching. After her husband's death Cora Augustine McCrabb (1865-1929) assisted by her son John S. McCrabb (1885-1947) carried on the ranching interests. After her mother's death the daughter Mary (Mrs. Jim B. Atkinson) assumed management of her share of the Buck McCrabb estate, specializing in Herefords. She continued (1961) on a small scale, but for a number of years has leased most of her acreage to other stockmen.

There are no Atkinson children. The John S. McCrabb heirs are his widow, nee Gladys Brown, the son J. F., McCrabb's widow, nee Louise Boothe, and the daughters Jessie (Mrs. Eugene Hauchins) and Mary Lee (Mrs. Penny Mood). Their land shares are still (1961) leased to successful stockmen.

Buck McCrabb and the son John S. McCrabb used the brands **F2** and **F3**-(**JF2**) and **JF3**; Mary McCrabb Atkinson uses **S** door key **SB**.

The Mugge-Reiffert Ranch In early manhood Walter Reiffert and Fred Mugge came into possession of extensive ranch lands in southeast DeWitt County. For a number of years the ranch interests were operated jointly. Later a division was effected by which Mugges gave to Reifferts their interests in southeast DeWitt County in exchange for equal interests in western DeWitt County. Henceforth the land in southeastern DeWitt County came to be called "The Reiffert Ranch."

Walter Reiffert managed his interests until his death in 1941. In his will he left a designated acreage to his second wife Avis Bass (Foster) Reiffert who had a son Billy and a daughter Avis Marie by her first marriage. There were no children by the second marriage. The widow has continuously managed her share and is still (1961) successful with Hereford cattle.

The remaining acreage is (1961) maintained jointly by the Walter and Anna Amanda Mugge Reiffert heirs: Walter Reiffert, Jr., Edwin, Jr. and Walter Reiffert McClanaham, (sons of Mildred Reiffert McClanaham, deceased), Ralph Reiffert, and James (Jimmie) Reiffert. Hereford cattle do well on this land under the management of ranch boss, Bill Key, with Ralph Reiffert as chief supervisor. The cattle are branded -7-.

The Peebles Ranch Dr. Robert Peebles bought the Fletcher League west of the Guadalupe River in May, 1849. He put part of it in

cultivation and used the remainder as pastures. A number of Negro slaves worked the farm and herded the Longhorns.

In the early years when there were no fences, it was impossible for owners to keep their cattle within the bounds of their acreage. When asked where his cattle ranged, Dr. Peebles would reply, "Oh, I guess probably from the Guadalupe to the Rio Grande."

For some time after the death of Dr. Peebles his widow, nee Lucy A. Trigg Peebles, assisted by her son John O. Peebles, carried on the ranch activities. Later the ranch was divided between the son and the daughter Kate.

Kate Peebles married John H. Boyd. They operated a ranch on her share until his death in 1900. She and her son John carried on for a time then the ranch was sold to non-relatives.

John O. Peebles (1859-1904) first married Marion Blake who died soon afterward. He then married Marion's sister Warnette Elizabeth Blake. They were successful ranchers on his share of the Peebles land until his death. She continued to operate the ranch interests. After his marriage to Fanny Peebles in 1914, Blake Alexander assisted his mother-in-law. During her many years of ill health and since her death in 1959, he has had full responsibility of ranch management. Blake Alexander has been successful with Black Angus cattle and also raises sheep. Dr. Robert Peebles' brand was $\wedge 4$; John O. Peebles P— ; Blake Alexander's LI ; William H. Boyd K—.

The H. Runge and Company Ranch Soon after H. Runge and Company (composed of William Frobose, Emil Reiffert and Edward Mugge) became active in the combined bank, hardware, and grocery business in Cuero in 1875, they began buying extensive ranch lands in DeWitt County and adjoining counties. The DeWitt County ranch was located in the Cabeza Creek area of the western part of the county.

In 1897 the company promoted the establishment of a townsite and named it Nordheim for a German town near which William Frobose was born.

For a number of years the ranch was stocked and operated jointly by the three partners. The land was then divided and each family group took over the management of a share. In the 1940's the Frobeses sold their portion. Reiffert and Mugge heirs still own their acreages in 1962, but since 1940 Reiffert "Shorty" Blackwell has leased all this land and has made commercial Hereford a success.

Henry Runge organized and participated in the H. Runge and Company business firm at Indianola, but withdrew from it in the

1860's; he never lived at Cuero. Frobese, Reiffert, and Mugge continued the firm under the original name, and after several years relocated in Cuero where they and their descendants have taken part in business, civic, social, and church activities from 1875 to 1962.

William Frobese (1838-1911) married Charlotte Rolle Hilde-sheim (1843-1882); both were native Germans and died at Cuero. Their children were Alma, William (a stockman), Charles, Herman, and Henry. William Frobese's second wife was Alfreda, a daughter of Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss. The four children were Joseph (a doctor), Bertha (Mrs. F. H. Schmidt), Marion (Mrs. Henry E. Leonardt), and "Miss Annie" Frobese.

Emil Reiffert (1839-1910) and Helen Tipps were both natives of Germany; they were married in 1869 and reared five children: Emil, Walter (married Anna Mugge), Meta (wife of Dr. Joe Henry Reuss), Hilda (Mrs. Fred T. Mugge), and Alma (Mrs. William A. Blackwell).

Edward Mugge (1839-1897), a native of Germany, married Pauline Blumenthal; they were the parents of Edward, Jr. (married Mildred Hutchenson), Lillie (Mrs. Oscar Reuss), Henry A. (married Mayme Wofford), Anna (Mrs. Walter Reiffert), Dr. Oscar J., and Fred Theodore (married Hilda Reiffert).

An Early-day Taylor Ranch The Taylor Ranch was located southwest of Yorktown. John Milam Taylor (1835-1905) son of William and Elizabeth Tumlinson Taylor and grandson of Josiah and Hepzibeth Taylor, bought a large acreage of land at 25 cents per acre (probably in the late 1850's) and raised Longhorns on an extensive scale; his brand was **7-J-V**. The ranch house was about eight miles southwest of Yorktown.

"John Milam Taylor lived an industrious life and merited the good will of his fellowman. He prospered financially, and was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Yorktown."

After John's death his widow, Virginia Taylor and the children carried on the ranch for several years; it was discontinued in the early 1900's.

John Milam Taylor first married Josephine Adams; their children were Preston (married Bettie Welson), Nannie (Mrs. John C. Busby), and Charles who married Hepsy Doolin. Mrs. Josephine Taylor died in 1879.

Widower John Milam Taylor married Virginia Harrington in 1882. Eight children were born to this union. Elizabeth became Mrs. Columbus Taylor; John Fletcher married Willie King and was a stock farmer at Charco; Mae married John Kerlick and lived many years at Yorktown; the younger daughters were Myra, Fannie, Annie, and Leona.

An Early-day von Roeder Ranch Joachin von Roeder, born in 1836, was the only child of Rudolph and Antoinette Donop von Roeder. His parents died when he was a small child and he grew up in the home of his aunt, Mrs. Robert Kleberg (nee Rosa von Roeder). Joachin arrived in DeWitt County in 1847. Several years later he "got out on his own" and lived in a log cabin between Clinton and Meyersville where he stock farmed.

He served in the Civil War in Captain Josiah Taylor's Company G. of the 32nd Cavalry, Colonel Wood in command. Von Roeder was advanced to the rank of sergeant; upon his dismissal from service he returned to DeWitt County.

Then he moved to the Yorktown area and established a sizeable ranch on Salt Creek and operated it until about 1885. He sold his Longhorns largely on the Fort Worth and Galveston markets. His brand was the "well-known six round-pointed star."

Weldon Ranch Interests Vachel and Sophia Dodge Weldon came to Texas from Kentucky in the 1860's and lived at Indianola and Victoria prior to moving to Clinton in the 1870's. In the 1880's they bought an extensive acreage in northwestern DeWitt County from the promoters of the abandoned project to extend the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad on to the Pacific.

Vachel engaged in raising Longhorn cattle on his ranch land for some years, but by the time of his death in 1896, he had changed to a Short-horn breed.

Survivors were his wife, the daughters, Mary, who married Dr. Daniel Biglow Blake, and Jennie, who married Samuel Cabell Lackey, Jr.; a son, Stayton Weldon, married Ruth Warn.

Vachel Weldon, Sr., had a sister, Jennie, who married John W. Stayton. Their daughter Willie married Fielding Breeden. These Weldon, Blake, Lackey, Stayton, and Breeden families grew up together in the Clinton and Cuero area. Numbers of these inter-related families inherited shares of the Weldon Ranch and maintained their interests during the early 1900's. Later the son Stayton Weldon took over and continued management until his death. The present (1960) supervisors are Vachel Weldon (son of Stayton and Ruth Warn Weldon) who resides in the area and Vachel Lackey (son of Samuel Cabell and Jennie Weldon Lackey) who is non-resident.

The John T. Wofford Ranch John Tyler Wofford, son of Rollins Bob and Frances Jane Davis Wofford, operated the Lost Creek Ranch in central DeWitt County beginning in the 1870's. He had large stock pens located not far from the confluence of the Sandies and the river. This area was one of the "gathering places" for stockmen preparing for "cattle drives up trail."

John T. Wofford's ranch brand was **XT**; his up-trail brand was lazy F (**⌢**). He and Jim Bell took 7,000 Longhorn steers to Kansas in the fall of 1882. By the time they arrived "market-prices had broken." Wofford decided to "hold over" his steers until spring; Bell declined to "hold over," so Wofford bought his share of the steers at the prevailing low market price. Then followed the severest winter on record. Despite the efforts of the cow hands to tend the head, only 600 steers survived. It took years and much courage for Wofford to overcome this heavy loss and restore his ranching operation, which he continued until his death in 1910 at the age of 66 years. After Longhorns he specialized in Angus cattle for some years.

In 1945 Joe Arnold reminiscently said, "The pens on the John T. Wofford ranch were fenced with post oak rails. I worked there in 1891 when I was 16 years old. It was great fun to watch ranch-boss D. Fentch, who was about 60 years old, rope the calves and steers. He seldom missed one."

The son John Tyler, who had been assisting with the management of the ranch, assumed full charge after his father's death. He successfully continued raising the "general run of stock cattle" until about 1932 yielding then to the younger generation of Woffords; they have continued with cattle and crops and did well for some years with cotton on irrigated land.

Horses, like cattle, were introduced to the American Southwest through the 16th century Spanish conquests of Central America. A prehistoric ancestor of the present animal had long since become extinct in North America when the small-hooved, sturdy, Spanish breed arrived with Cortez in 1519. Within a century the plains tribes were centering their cultures on the animal and when Anglo-Americans arrived with their European varieties of horses they found the fleet animals of the plains in abundance.

Raising, trading, working, and racing horses were activities basic to early DeWitt County settlers. Domesticating the wild mustang was a task for the residents of the northwest section of the county and one method of capturing these ponies is related by Albert Meyer:

Later on he (Meyer's father) found out how to crease a horse by shooting it through the neck on a curly spot which is found on any horse from 12 to 14 inches down the neck from the ear. . . . After making this accurate shot the horse fell down unconscious for about five minutes which gave Father time to tie his rope to him.

Two of the best known horse raisers of the southern section of the county were Judges David Murphree and David Irvin. Murphree built his home "Point Evergreen" in 1848 on Prices Creek and raised fine blooded horses and mules until his death in 1866 when he was killed while transacting the business of selling 250 head of young horses and mules in Missouri. Judge Murphree's stock earned recognition and often awards at the Victoria fairs. His estate was disposed of at public sale in November, 1866, and included "large, acclimated, full-blooded mules of approved pedigree." Among the animals were "two aged Jacks; six one-year old Jacks; forty-two head brood mares, colts and mules; one pair carriage horses; sixty head of stock cattle; six three-year old Jacks; and sixty-five head Jennets." Murphree's mule stock, at least the best of it, were given interesting names such as "Black Warrior" and "Jenny Lind."

Judge David Irvin settled at Prices Creek in 1852 and also raised blooded horses. He very likely purchased stock from the Weisiger family of Kentucky; members of this group lived at Mission Valley at this time and were widely known as importers of fine animals. They sold horses to the Kings of Kleberg County from time to time.

Horses were of course necessary before their displacement by the gasoline engine; their numbers decreased rapidly shortly after the turn of the century but since they were more adaptable to non-work performance such as pleasure saddle riding and "show" the number of horses is much greater now than their once numerous partners on the farms, the mules.

The following statistics show the once dense and lately declining horse and mule population of DeWitt County: 1859-3,804 horses; 1868-9,831 horses; 1909-11,277 horses; 1925-6,833 horses, 9,352 mules; 1945-4,994 horses, 3,697 mules; 1954-1,802 horses and mule

The earliest agricultural records of the American colonials include reference to swine (even before their arrival the Spanish Conquistadores drove herds of them) which were allowed to run wild and forage for themselves. The habit of "keeping" hogs was brought to Texas and was particularly prevalent in East Texas. Razorbacks were found roaming the woods of Texas and in DeWitt County (especially at Arneckeville and Meyersville) winter-time slaughter provided meat and lard. Hogs often "paid the bills" of early Texans.

Until about 1900 DeWitt County farmers raised various breeds for home consumption and after that for market. The most popular breeds have been Duroc, Jersey, Poland, China, and Hampshire. They have been fed for some time now on home grown and commercial products. Prices have ranged from a few cents a pound to about \$17.80 per head in 1950 and \$20 in 1955 for top animals. In 1945 there were 10,083 hogs in the county (state figures were about

2,000,000 from 1905 to 1924; the 1960 total was 1,263,000); the 1954 county figure was 9,325.

Sheep numbered about 5,000 in DeWitt County in 1860; Joe Smith was grazing 1,100 of the animals at Clinton in 1863. In 1876 an operation was begun at Cabeza by J. J. Shoat, John Riley, and Joshua Butler, but they converted the ranch to cattle later. Selected sheep statistics follow: 1860-5,618 (\$15,945); 1865-27,864 (\$46,075); 1925-7,385; 1954-13,785 (state totals 6,074,000 valued \$14.45 per head).

Poultry and poultry products by 1947 contributed more than any other one agricultural factor to the economic health of DeWitt County. The turkey has been most spectacular as a poultry item. Early settlers found wild birds and in time the Bronze variety, descended from imported stock, was upgraded to furnish today's fine yield of meat found on the "baby-beef" Bronze; Beltsville White has filled the recent demand for smaller birds.

DeWitt County has long been recognized as Texas' leading turkey production center. The Cuero Turkey Association, Otto Hartman of Meyersville manager, ships (1940's) out high grade Pullorum, tube tested eggs from high production hens. In 1946 over \$50,000 worth of hatching eggs were shipped to satisfied customers.

In 1955 the Cuero Record announced that "A new era has definitely come to DeWitt County turkey industry--the production of birds on a gigantic scale rather than the raising of a few score, a couple of hundred or a thousand as was the practice in the past."

Fred Hansen and Gus Gage, two of the county's leading producers, and the financing offer they have made for growers, are responsible to a great degree for the "new look." In addition to raising flocks of 20,000 birds in a single pen, such as the Thompson Brood Whites, on the Gus Gage farm and the 4,000 Baby-beef Bronze produced by young David Hensley through the financing program, Gage and Hansen have financed 100,000 other turkeys in the Cuero area.

Prices have ranged from 75¢ a head to a peak of 40¢ a pound on foot. The 1955 figures were 28¢-29¢ per pound for toms and 34¢-35¢ per pound for hens.

Cuero has celebrated twelve "Turkey Trots" (1912-1960) and for years was known as the "Turkey Capital of the World." The I. Egg Sons of Meyersville drove 8,000 turkeys into Cuero to participate in the Colquit-led Trot of 1912. The Trot of 1947 cost approximately \$20,000 and produced about \$15,000 income; local citizens subscribed the difference.

In 1923, 926 car loads of dressed and 105 cars of live poultry moved out of the county; in November and December of 1923, 29 cars left Cuero and 13 were loaded at Yorktown. By 1945 there were 411,760 chickens in the county and 103,699 turkeys; in 1950 there were 100,000 turkeys. The 1960 state turkey total was 391,000 giving DeWitt County a considerable portion of the state production; the average price per head in 1960 was \$4.20. In 1930 DeWitt County ranked second of Texas counties in turkey and eighth in chicken production.

Commerce If business enterprise is the production of goods and services for profit rather than self-consumption, DeWitt County had such establishments as early as the 1850's. They were of course directly allied to the soil. Mills were in operation before 1850; at Irish Creek Arthur Burns owned and managed a water-powered mill on the Guadalupe, probably as early as the 1830's. After Burns' death in 1856, Uncle Moses Rankin operated this mill until it was washed away by the flood of 1869. Uncle Dick Chisholm's horse-driven grist mill was serving the Clinton area as early as the 1840's.

Daniel Boone Friar's mercantile enterprise began in 1840 and Dr. Duck, an English physician, opened an early drug store in Upper Cuero Creek, but moved to Corpus Christi in 1846. In 1851 James Norman Smith managed a store at Clinton (the first year's receipts were \$21,000 and the second \$18,000); this store was a branch of the Wheeler mercantile business at Victoria. The Grimes brothers of Liverpool, England, kept a dry goods store in the Cuero Creek section at an early date. John J. Tumlinson and a partner began a mercantile enterprise in January, 1853, with \$4,000 of stock; Oliver Stapp's initial stock was worth \$3,000.

At Clinton where officials, lawyers, and interested parties congregated during the meeting of early county courts, a hotel was established by Oliver Stapp; he offered lodging, entertainment, and food cooked and served in the open.

Ginners, merchants, and legal and medical professions made up the bulk of the pioneer business community. An early report (1863) lists monies on hand in the county at \$16,864.51; profits made during the year 1862 were \$2,838; profits made in 1863 were \$14,629.10, and income and salaries in 1863 were \$106,988.12.

By the turn of the century, settled farming and planned ranching were supplanting self-sufficient agriculture and the range cattle industry and a number of commercial projects were begun which laid the foundation for the trade life of the county. In 1904 a 5,000 spindle cotton mill was constructed at Cuero; there were 200

employees and the factory operated day and night. At the same time Cuero boasted a 100-ton cotton seed oil mill, compress, creamery, 15-ton ice plant, a bottling works, three cotton gins, a soap and a cistern factory. A contract was let about 1904 for a 1500 feet well at Cuero; artesian flow was discovered at 600 feet (at 1100 feet a second flow produced 100,000 gallons a day); at 1440 feet another flow (300,000 gallons a day) was struck.

In 1911 the Cuero Guadalupe Valley Cotton Mills began operation with 8,300 spindles and 208 looms. By the 1920's Cuero was well established as the county's industrial center with cotton and oil milling as major enterprises; Yoakum had a division of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad and Yorktown was an important trade center. There were forty business establishments, 348 wage earners, \$2,952,456.00 worth of goods traded and \$598,014.00 of goods manufactured in 1920. The statistics which follow reflect in taxable property, commercial exchange, number of business establishments, etc., that the decade of the 1920's brought an economic revolution to the county. Automobiles, roads, service facilities, and the general growth of the United States economy based on technological discoveries and consumer demands wrought a change only recently recognized. The depression of the early 1930's, the boom of World War II, and the "prosperous fifties" are also reflected: 1859-\$1,438,364 in properties; 1860-\$2,502,612; 1863-\$835,134; 1867-\$1,389,015; 1870-\$1,270,392; 1908-\$16,865,180; 1928-\$18,316,230; 1932-\$15,415,182; 1935-\$13,225,727; 1950-\$22,335,015; 1960-\$31,594,030.

Trade-Sales 1920-40 business establishments, \$2,952,465 in products; 1930-\$9,050,000 in retail sales; 1933-\$3,925,000 in retail sales; 1940-\$6,372,000 in retail sales; 1958-371 business establishments, 124 in Cuero, \$23,738,000 county retail sales, \$9,724,000 Cuero retail sales, 46 wholesale houses in the county.

Manufacturing 1920 - 3 establishments with 3 wage earners, \$20,824 value; 1929-26 establishments with 433 wage earners, \$3,449,367 value; 1933-25 establishments with 455 wage earners, \$1,974,679; 1947-21 establishments with 924 wage earners; 1958-22 establishments with 1,089 wage earners.

County Employment in 1958: Mining: 94; Construction: 109; Manufacturing: 1,057; Transportation/Communication/Utilities: 180; Trade: 1,068; Finance/Insurance/Real Estate: 68; Service: 143; Wages: \$6,890,716.

Bank Deposits 1859-4 money lenders, \$2,066 onhand; 1958-deposits: \$24,582,000; assets: \$26,623,000.

Miscellaneous Income Tax Returns: 1924-579; 1930-318; Vehicles: 1932-6,520; 1949-10,622; 1958-10,880; Mineral Wealth: crude oil discovered 1930; 22,191,868 barrels produced by 1958; gas, gas liquids, sand, gravel, stone yielded \$12,470,497 by 1958.

VI MISCELLANEOUS APPENDICES

County Firsts

- 1826 First Home (Arthur Burns at Irish Creek)
- 1829 First White Child Born (Columbus Burns)
First Grave (Josiah Taylor)
First Indian Killing (John McSherry)
- 1830 First Mill (Arthur Burns)
- 1838 First Ferry (Chisholm Ferry)
- 1839 First Minister (Reverend Sneed)
First Indian Kidnapping (Matilda Lockhart)
- 1840 First School (James Norman Smith)
First Physician (Dr. Duck of London, England)
First Store (Friar-Cardwell)
- 1841 First Church Organization (Cumberland Presbyterians)
- 1842 First County Organization (Judicial DeWitt County)
- 1846 First Brands Registered (Joseph Murphy, Berry Doolittle,
Jonathan Scot, John York)
First Marriage License (Pitkin Taylor and Susan Cochran)
First Townsite Surveyed (Concrete)
First County Seat Established (Cameron)
First Post Office Established (Friar's Store)
First Settlement by German Immigrants
- 1860 First Glass Windows (Dr. Lewis Williams)
- 1871 First Incorporated Town (Yorktown)
- 1872 First Railroad Station (Thomaston)
- 1873 First Bridge (Schleicher Bridge)
- 1882 First Smooth Wire Fence
- 1887 First Crossing of County by Rail
- 1912 First Turkey Trot

Civil War Muster Rolls

Captain Robert Kleberg's Coletto Guards: Robert Kleberg-captain, Jacob Schewitz-1st lt., Andrew Buchart-2nd lt., Christopher Diebel-3rd lt., George Metting-1st sgt., Benjamin Eckhardt, Frederick Albrecht, Jacob Schewitch, Hugo Buschuch, W. Welms, G. Holzapfel, A. Sievers, C. Hostman, J. Pieberle, A. Koenig, W. Schorlemmer, P. Walker, Jacob Brenich, J. H. Richter, Julius Schorre, F. Mock, W. Hoff, C. Schaefer, J. Grunewald, John Urbahn, A. Adickz, A. Hann, F. Ploegen, A. Rabke, Andrew Albrecht, A. Gohl, F. Langerte,

Joseph Bomba, Adam Meyenhoelder, Henry Arnecke, Valentine Koehler, John C. Junker, Anton Hotz, W. Froinsne, John Baldinger, F. Dreyer, Geo. Palmie, F. Bueching, Charles Schaade, A. Meyer, Dickormann, F. Dudenstadt, L. Deyer, T. Munsbruer, G. Deyer, H. Idaeu, Anton Atzenhofer, W. Westhoff, E. Holzapfel, L. Fromme, A. Oll, W. V. Hinueber, J. Wagner, H. Clark, W. Meyer, L. Franke, L. Villemain, L. Dorange, John Man, P. Luther, Charles Schenker, Rudolph Schenker, T. Olensk, Louis Rheinhardt, Urbanus Bluntzer, Fred Hella, Fred Diebes, Christopher Albrecht, Gustav Schroeder, Henry Olfers, Anton Hofer, Andrew Hans, Louis Setik, Henry Jacob, John Richter, T. Moeglin, Lorent Conrad, M. Mimkan, H. Keinzy, H. Bauer, H. Mumbrauer, C. Miller, Paul Arnold, Michael Rehm, John Gerhardt, Adolph Rabke, William Gubert, F. J. Gluss, John Arnold, W. Haussman, Cornelius Lutenbach, Henry Haussmann, S. Bluntzer, Tobias Wilms, S. T. Simons, Edward Fuchs, A. Seitz. Certified by Robert Kleberg, 17 of June, 1861, hdqs. at Meyersville

Captain M. G. Jacobs' Concrete Home Guard
M. G. Jacobs-captain, T. J. Stell-1st lt., John C. Terrell-2nd lt., Henry Edgar, 2nd lt., M. J. Baker, 1st sgt., Hyman Edgar, J. A. Crawford, W. P. Priestly, R. P. Carr, D. L. Peebles, F. M. Cunningham, John O. McGehee, J. G. Alford, W. W. Baker.

Captain Andrew G. Scarborough's Davis Guards
A. G. Scarborough-captain, J. B. Holland-1st lt., J. D. Terry-2nd lt., A. J. Brooks-3rd lt., Wm. Atkinson-1st sgt., A. H. Wiley, Daniel Doherty, Jas. Byan, A. R. Cudd, Jas. A. Goode, Robt. Goode, B. F. McDonald, A. H. Wilson, John Shaws, G. B. Goode, J. T. Smith, T. Thigpen, W. C. Cavendish, Sr., C. Thomas, John Hollan, A. G. Goodson, W. G. Hargrove, A. P. Atkinson, J. H. Atkinson, George Byan, Jas. Cable, R. A. Holland, John McManus, Wm. Burge, J. D. Sellars, E. Smith, J. A. Crawford, A. G. Gibbs, A. Granbury, H. Hollan, Wm. Rush, W. H. H. Hollan, L. Harrver, L. W. Byan, N. B. Wiley, J. Hester, W. E. Barnes, J. A. Boothe, G. H. Boothe, R. Sawyers, J. C. Terrill, T. B. Doyle, W. C. Cavendish, Thos. Cleptin, John Spaulding, Felin McDonald, H. Rush, Thomas Howard, John Howard, Wm. V. Boothe, C. C. Woodward, J. E. King, J. E. Lynch, Edward Rayly, H. Vanderhides, J. C. Beasley, Dan. Cudd, P. L. Barnes, W. B. McDonald, Chs. Curry.

Captain Josiah Taylor's Company--DeWitt Guerillas
Josiah Taylor-captain, W. T. Porter-1st lt., J. R. Kelsoe-2nd lt., Charles Ormand-2nd lt., James Brown-orderly sgt., L. S. Warren, Samuel Epperson, William Culpepper, K. B. White, James M. Dow,

T. H. Clark, J. F. Blair, George Witting, D. B. Peavy, Hugo Buschwick, G. W. Humphreys, J. G. Montgomery, W. B. Prator, William Aaron, Julius Gleip, W. von Hinueber, W. G. Bell, Robert Kleberg, William S. Brown, James B. Brown, J. A. Reed, M. V. King, Johnson Henvyes, H. W. Corley, W. A. Rainey, W. B. York, Charles Thie, Ben Dally, G. W. Brooks, Jr., James Brooks, A. M. Summers, W. D. Ford, Wm. A. Adams, Turner Tate, R. Flowers, James Brown, Jr. Edward Marlow, A. Hohn, C. C. Whittington, Peter Walder, E. Holzapfel, James Humphreys, Montgomery Blackwell, W. A. Taylor, D. Murry, Jr., Thomas Chandler, J. M. Murry, Jno. R. Hamilton.

Captain William R. Friend's Company--DeWitt Rifles
W. R. Friend-captain, James K. White-1st lt., Alexander H. Samples-2nd lt., John W. Brownson-2nd lt., Thadeus J. Brownson-1st sgt., William C. McLean, J. R. Hosmer, H. C. Thomas, H. J. Tuggle, B. F. McLean, W. C. Odom, Mason Arm, Franklin Wofford, James M. Wheat, W. W. Pridgen, J. K. P. Pridgen, J. M. Brooks, M. Cassidy, John Bumpass, T. S. Richie, A. J. Duren, J. F. Tilder, William Augustine, J. W. Kirkland, J. L. Gilbert, C. H. Leckner, Julius Gendke, Carl Brown, Henry Brown, J. M. Austin, W. C. Thompson, Otto Kleberg, C. M. Sherman, W. H. Webb, John Field, H. B. Shelton, John Mauer, Julius Franke, John Stadtler, Civenus Hotz, Jas. P. Patterson, A. A. Patterson, August Lehman, J. M. Troup, Daniel McAlister, Wilhelm Trautvein, Gustav Schrader, Dan'l J. Nations, E. M. Phillips, M. O'Brien, James Billings, Barlett Gilbert, Theodor Thieme, Wilhelm Arnecke, Phillip Schewitz, J. C. Rhode, William White, William Eckhardt, James Rives, C. C. Linn, J. H. Armstrong, Micheal Heller, Peter Sager, Audies Munsch, Simone Weber, Henry Koehler.

Captain H. G. Woods' Company--Shiloh Home Guards
H. G. Wood-captain, D. N. Hardy-1st lt., E. Edwards-2nd lt., J. H. Calliham-3rd lt., Joel S. Mily-1st sgt., C. Hartman, A. Brown, Wm. Aaron, J. D. Campbell, J. T. Graves, G. T. Hester, W. S. Friar, G. W. McFarland, F. W. Calloway, Mason Tawley, Wyatt Anderson, J. N. Fraser, J. P. Ainsworth, Robt. Babbitt, J. Esculuras, J. D. Goldman, T. W. Roberts, W. McMillan, J. D. McFarland, J. B. Towry, R. W. Insall, M. Z. Woods, B. Goldman, Walter Anderson, David Murray, Wyatt Hanks, J. D. Brambley, W. S. Brown, J. H. Friar, S. H. Yocum, W. M. Sexton, Joseph H. Brown, J. F. Shannon, Jacob A. Miller, R. H. Dickson, Milam A. Harper, A. T. Cedro, D. R. Calliham, Caly Ward, B. Brown, Nathan Lambert, H. L. Lowery, Thos. Glimp, J. T. Baxter, T. G. Bailey, Jonathan York, J. M. Murry, Peter Metz, Silvanus Brown, C. Dahlman,

Anton Metz, Organized at Shiloh, west side of Guadalupe River, 8 miles west of Clinton, 6 day of July, 1861.

Captain Caesar Eckhardt's Company -- Yorktown Hulan Reserve Company: Caesar Eckhardt-captain, Frederick Fuchs-1st lt., Louis Fuchs-2nd lt., Chas. Karnie-2nd lt., Robt. Eckhardt, S. Gohlke, G. Potter, L. Lenz, John Sickor, A. Greissen, A. Varnerk, F. Hoppe, Julius Meyer, A. Green, J. Quast, F. Wehe, D. Schneider, Peter Metz, C. Heussig, A. Reidesel, C. Duerr, C. Scheizer, S.C. Spies, A. Kraege, G. Schulz, W. Gohmert, E. Fechner, F. Schrader, F. Menn, A. Fechner, F. Green, T. Stephen, A. Andelman, Chas. Fedler, A. Saurmilch, L. Reidesel, G. Becker, I. von Roeder, B. Engels, S. Schneider, R. Spremburg, L. Klatz, F. Gohlke, H. Potter, S. Gohmert, W. Gohlke, G. Fedler, H. Borchers, A. Strieber, E. Kruger, F. Gips, W. Starke, A. Schuelze, T. Neuman, F. Schley, G. Runge, C. Hoff, E. Gaebler, C. Gaebler.

Earliest County Assessment (1847) Total Values: 83,305 acres land-\$87,558.00; 330 Negro slaves/543 homes-\$117,216.00; 5,090 cattle-\$19,931.00; Money at interest-\$600.00; Revenue: 2¢ on the doll. Selected Valuations: John Burt: wagon-\$45, spirits-\$125; Margaret Brown: 7 slaves-\$2,400, 47 cattle-\$188; Miles S. Bennet: 1107 acres land-\$1,107; Clayton Blackwell: horse-\$20; J. M. Bell: 14 horses-\$560, 107 cattle-\$374, 16 hogs-\$24; John McCrabb: 192 acre land-\$577, 1107 acres land-\$2,214, 44 yoke oxen-\$200, 125 cattle-\$500; Rollin B. Wofford: 17 slaves-\$5,500, 120 cattle-\$480, 2 guns-\$20; John York: 4428 acres land-\$2,214, 9 slaves-\$3,000, 200 cattle-\$600.

Total County Revenue(including 157 poll taxes at \$1.00 each)---\$669.00

Slave Property of W. W. Pridgen(1795-1854) Males: 7 (10 mo. to 10 yrs.)-\$150.00-\$500.00; 1 (15 yr)-\$1,000; 1 (24)-\$1,200; 1 (25) \$1,200; 1 (25)-\$1,100; 1 (25) -\$1,000; 1 (28)-\$1,000; 1(40) - \$900; 1 (50)-\$550. Females: 1 (1 mo)-\$100; 1 (5 mo)-\$100; 1 (8 mo)-\$150; 6 (2-12 yr)-\$250-650; 1 (16) -\$800; 1(20)-\$900; 1 (21)- \$900; 1 (22)-\$1,000; 1 (24)-\$1,000; 1 (25)-\$800; 1 (28)-\$900; 1 (35)-\$700. Total: 32 slaves; value - \$20,000.00. Slave wages (Dec. 1854-Jan. 1856): \$3,282.00.

Property of Judge David Irvin (1798-1872) Real: tract of land in DeWitt County (1100) acres on Guadalupe River near Prices Creek-\$5,500; home and lot in town of Victoria- \$2,000.

Personal: 50 head stock horses-\$850; 7 head gentle horses-\$175;

54 head stock cattle-\$189; 2 old mules-\$100; 1 two horse wagon and harness-\$20; 1 grind stone-\$1.00; 2 harrows-\$5.00; 1 old plow-\$15; 3 weeding hoes-\$1.50; 1 hoe-\$.75. 1 pair steelyards-\$2; carpenters tools-\$3.25; 1 buggy-\$25; 1 cut saw-\$3; 1 broken set blacksmith tools-\$20; 1 sugar mill-\$30; 250 bushels corn @ .60 per bushel-\$50; 4 bed steads -\$15; 6 chairs-\$12; 8 chairs-\$2; 3 chairs-\$2.25; 2 tables-\$2; 1 safe-\$5; 1 cupboard-\$5; 1 secretary-\$5; 1 fancy table-\$2; 1 shot gun-\$10; 3 small rifles-\$15; 2 pair and irons-\$2; old buggy irons-\$5.

Reminiscences

Judge William Dreier In 1847 my parents sailed for America and arrived at Texas in 1848. Mrs. W. G. Eichols, my sister, was the first child to be born in the Meyersville colony. Mr. Fritz Hausmann and Mr. Adolph Meyer had been living at Meyersville since 1846. They had a small log hut built and covered with grass. A serious handicap to the men was that they did not know how to handle an axe, as back in the old country there was no wood to burn but peat or turf was used for fuel. Now they had to learn to cut large trees, and split the logs to build houses and split shingle and split rails to fence in ground for fields. After a house was built they had to take a large broad axe to hew the logs somewhat straight on the inside so they could nail the cracks up with split weatherboards and cover the roof with shingles. The shingles were three feet long on my grandfather's house, but the roof did not leak.

Unlike many of the earlier colonists of the New England States who traded glass beads for their lands, the settlers of these German communities of DeWitt County brought some money with them and they bought and paid for the land they occupied. My father, Fred Dreier, had bought 100 acres of land from Mr. Pettus on the 12 mile Coletto at \$1 per acre, and he built his house upon it. Later my father and Fritz Hausmann, who lived close together and were brothers-in-law, and who had worked in a brick yard in Germany as their trade, burned some bricks and sold enough of them so they could each buy himself fifty acres of land.

... All the settlers built their houses within a few yards of the Coletto Creek to be near a supply of water because they did not know how to dig a well. The first farmers of the new Meyersville Community had to break their ground for planting with a spade and grubbing hoe. The next year my grandfather made himself a wooden plow. They had wooden mould boards and plows in Germany and my grandfather had brought him along an ironshare or plow point.

... When provisions ran short in the new Meyersville settlement, the settlers had to go to Victoria to get more. They made

trips on foot and brought back such provisions as they could carry. Later my father bought some teams and started a freight-hauling business to and from San Antonio, which he continued until war broke out, and then he hauled cotton to Mexico. We had to make our own ropes of hair by hand as there were no grass ropes for sale. My father had made himself a spinning machine to spin hair, and William Hausmann and Gus Dietz would come to our house and spin hair for ropes.

Albert Meyer My father's first taxes were only 25¢ on 90 acres of land. I remember when my older brothers wore the old time pistols called the cap and ball six shooters, and they would wear them to church and on the way back home practice shooting jack rabbits.

Father built his first house of post oak trees split in half with the ends dove-tailed in order to be fitted and fastened with pegs. The open places between the logs were filled with a mixture of moss, clay and ashes. This made a soft plastic to be used in order to exclude the cold weather. The roof was made of the long grasses which were found in abundance in those days. The floor was made of ashes and adobe ground together and water added to this made a solid floor. Father lost this one by fire and had to build another one.

Father carried one bushel of corn on his back at a time to Clinton - 10 miles - to the old time windmill driven by wind power. Later on he found out how to crease a horse by shooting it through the neck. . . The cap and ball rifle that he brought from Germany was a good one.

After taming the horse Father used him to carry his provisions. He lost this horse by using a hobble instead of staking him. The horse got tangled up in the long grass which was as high as your head in those days, and could not be found, until buzzards were seen flying.

We made rail fences and had no other means to make a field. The fence was in a zigzag with a rider on top. The first fence Father made out of post oak trees by splitting rails and he fenced him in a field at Meyersville.

He made his soap out of hog grease and ashes lye. The lye was made by filling a barrel with ashes and taking the drippings of the ashes water over and over again through the barrel of ashes until it was strong enough to carry a hen egg. My father used this as we now use concentrated lye. . . to wean calves from cows he would split the calves' tongues which made them quit sucking.

Our food was just plain corn bread. When Mother had no butter, she spread hog lard on the bread and sprinkled it with salt to flavor. Wild meat was eaten, too. We didn't get to eat much flour bread except on Sundays.

Presidential Election Returns: County and (State)

1878	1852	1856	1860	1872	1876
D 81 (11, 644)	D 138 (14, 857)	D 235 (31, 995)	DM 0 (0)	D 386 (67, 875)	D 725 (106, 382)
W 16 (5, 281)	W 66 (5, 356)	R 0 (0)	DS 491 (47, 561)	R 258 (47, 910)	R 232 (45, 013)
		A 108 (16, 010)	R 0 (0)		
			C 83 (15, 402)		
1880	1884	1888	1892	1896	1900
D 739 (155, 963)	D 916 (226, 458)	D 1, 114 (236, 290)	D 1, 311 (239, 963)	D 1, 778 (290, 526)	D 1, 699 (267, 803)
R 644 (57, 225)	R 765 (93, 345)	R 836 (93, 991)	R 479 (47, 937)	R 1, 777 (163, 413)	R 1, 287 (131, 385)
G 9 (27, 471)		P 45 (33, 384)	P 5 (6, 866)	PP 293 (84, 771)	PP 103 (23, 248)
1904	1908	1912	1916	1920	1924
D 1, 425 (167, 092)	D 966 (218, 157)	D 1, 080 (219, 559)	D 1, 056 (287, 430)	D 971 (287, 910)	D 2, 131 (482, 533)
R 784 (50, 565)	R 853 (68, 506)	R 219 (28, 534)	R 1, 068 (64, 869)	R 1, 277 (114, 758)	R 868 (130, 194)
PP 57 (15, 262)	S 20 (11, 241)	PR 194 (53, 727)	S 23 (20, 815)	BTR 394 (83, 521)	PR 792 (42, 878)
1928	1932	1936	1940	1944	1948
D 1, 1594 (340, 080)	D 3, 217 (753, 010)	D 1, 977 (734, 485)	D 1, 994 (905, 156)	D 1, 884 (821, 605)	D 1, 808 (750, 700)
R 1, 142 (367, 242)	R 309 (97, 598)	R 616 (103, 711)	R 1, 736 (211, 707)	R 1, 879 (191, 425)	R 1, 612 (282, 240)
CM 2	S 4 (4, 938)			TR 419 (135, 439)	DC 363 (106, 909)
S 3	L 1			S 3 (549)	P 30 (2, 758)
				P 2 (1, 017)	PR 30 (3, 764)
					S 119 (874)
1952	1956	1960			
D 1, 940 (969, 228)	D 2, 425 (859, 958)	D 2, 253 (1, 167, 932)			
R 4, 077 (1, 102, 878)	R 3, 401 (1, 080, 619)	R 2, 763 (1, 121, 699)			
P 2 (1, 983)	C 13 (14, 591)	C 12 (18, 169)			
CM 8		P 1 (3, 870)			

A-American, BTR-Black-Tan Republican, C-Constitution, CM-Communist, CH-Christian National, D-Democrat, DC-Dileocrat, G-Greenback, L-Liberty, P-Prohibition, PR-Peoples', PR-Progressive, R-Republican, S-Socialist, TR-Texas Regular, UL-Union Labor, W-Whig

Gubernatorial Election Returns: County and (State)

1847 Wood Miller Darnell	1849 Bell Wood Mills	D 128(7,154) D 266(5,106) D 119(1,276)	1851 Bell Johnson Greer Epperson Chambers	D 100(10,310) D 25(8,754) D 1(2,632)	1853 Pease Ochilltree Wood Evans Chambers Dancy	D 92(13,091) W 51(9,178) D 22(5,983) D 1(4,677) D 15(2,449) D 1(315)
1855 Pease Dickson Johnson Wood	1857 Runnels Houston	D 256(26,336) K 90(17,965) 1(809) 5(276)	1859 Houston Runnels	D 214(32,552) I 158(28,678)	1861 Lubbock Clark Chambers	D 202(21,854) D 135(21,730) D 120(13,759)
1863 Murray Chambers	1866 Throck- morton Pease	D 163(17,511) D 45(12,455)	1869 Davis Hamilton Stuart	R 367(39,901) R 222(39,092) D 4(380)	1873 Coke Davis Smith	D 543(85,549) R 553(42,633) 1
1876 Coke Chambers Davis 1,	1878 Roberts Fawman Norton Davis	D 883(150,581) R 451(47,719) 1, Schwab 1, Smith 1 Davis	1880 Roberts Davis Hamman Gold	D 803(166,101) R 696(64,382) G 11(33,721) 1	1882 Ireland Jones	D 545(150,891) G 830(102,501)
1884 Ireland Jones Norton	1886 Ross Cochran Dohoney Dreier	D 917(212,234) I 718(884,450) R 11(25,557)	1888 Ross Martin	D 1,221(250,338) F 376(98,447)	1890 Hogg Flanagan Heath	D 1,298(262,432) R 827(77,742) P (2,235)
1892 Hogg Clark Nugent Pred- gast Houston	1894 Culberson Nugent Makemson Dunn Schmitz	D 666(190,486) D 1,149(133,395) PP 773(108,483) Dunn Schmitz	1896 Culberson Nearby Clark Clark	D 1,696(298,528) PP 2,126(238,692) P 1(1,876) P 9(21,295) R 1(5,304)	1898 Sayers Jibbs Bailey Royal	D 2,191(291,548) PP 1,065(114,955) P 7(2,437) SL 0(552)

<u>1900</u> Sayors Hannay McHinn Royal	D 1, 701 (303, 586) R 1, 241 (112, 864) PP 87 (26, 579) S (155)	<u>1902</u> Lanham Burkett Mallett Carroll	D 1, 422 (266, 076) R 1, 079 (65, 706) PP 37 (12, 387) P 68 (8, 708)	<u>1904</u> Lanham Lowden Clark Mills Leitner Jackson	D 1, 450 (206, 167) R 776 (58, 865) P 17 (4, 509) SD 11 (2, 847) S 3 (552) 25	<u>1906</u> Campbell Gray Atchison Edwards Pearson Dowler	D 725 (149, 105) R 268 (23, 771) R 39 (5, 395) S 7 (2, 958) P 8 (2, 215) S (260)
<u>1908</u> Campbell Simpson Rhodes Heath Cook	D 792 (218, 956) R 1, 022 (73, 305) S 8 (8, 100) P (243) S (148)	<u>1910</u> Colquitt Terrell Andrews Houston Schmidt	D 1, 164 (174, 596) R 160 (26, 191) S 10 (11, 538) P 17 (6, 052) S 1 (436)	<u>1912</u> Colquitt Andrews Johnson Lassater Houston Choate	D 1, 268 (233, 073) S 25 (25, 258) R 124 (22, 914) PR 74 (15, 741) P 4 (2, 353) S 2 (398)	<u>1914</u> Ferguson Meitsen Phillip Ethrledge Choate	D 957 (175, 804) S 21 (25, 083) R 35 (11, 411) PR 2 (1, 794) S 2 (590)
<u>1916</u> Ferguson Greager Meitsen Levis	D 1, 747 (296, 667) R 384 (49, 118) S 21 (14, 580) P 7 (3, 200)	<u>1918</u> Hobby Boynton Simpson	D 518 (148, 982) R 90 (26, 713) S 3 (1, 660)	<u>1920</u> Neff Culberson McGregor Rhodes	D 1, 033 (289, 188) D 731 (90, 217) R 1, 153 (69, 380) S 12 (6, 796)	<u>1922</u> Neff Atwell	D 1, 968 (334, 199) R 1, 689 (73, 329)
<u>1924</u> Ferguson Butte	D 2, 879 (422, 558) R 1, 170 (294, 970)	<u>1926</u> Moody Haines Smith	D 706 (233, 068) R 427 (31, 531) S 1 (908)	<u>1928</u> Moody Holmes Stedman Rhodes	D 2, 363 (582, 972) R 351 (120, 504) CM (109) S 2 (738)	<u>1930</u> Sterling Talbot Rhodes	D 1, 109 (252, 738) R 666 (62, 224) S 2
<u>1932</u> Ferguson Bullington Edwards Howe Armstrong Hlett	D 2, 346 (528, 986) R 1, 161 (317, 807) S 2 (1, 866) CM (72) JD 2 (706) L (101)	<u>1934</u> Alfred Waggoner Edwards Hardaway	D 1, 216 (421, 422) R 42 (13, 534) S 1 (1, 877) CM (244)	<u>1936</u> Alfred Harris Brannin Brooks	D 2, 356 (782, 083) R 183 (58, 842) S 7 (962) CM (238)	<u>1938</u> O'Daniel Boynton Miller Brooks	D 1, 065 (473, 526) R 34 (10, 940) S (398) CM (424)
<u>1940</u> O'Daniel Hopkins Lauderdale	D 3, 485 (1, 019, 338) R 211 (59, 885) CM (202)	<u>1942</u> Stevens McDowell	D 878 (280, 735) R 20 (9, 204)	<u>1944</u> Stevenson Peasley	D 3, 621 (1, 007, 826) R 543 (100, 287)	<u>1946</u> Jester Nolte	D 1, 291 (345, 513) R 244 (33, 231)

1948	1950	1952	1954
Jester	D 2,852 (1,024, 160) Shivers	Shivers	D 4,884 (1,375, 547) Shivers
Lane	R 791 (177, 399) Currie	R 778 (468, 319) Adams	R 1,713 (596, 533)
Overholt	P 6 (3, 554)	Yarborough	R 148 (66, 154)
Wright	PR 6 (3, 747)		
1956	1958	1960	1962
Daniel	D 3,856 (1,350, 736) Daniel	Daniel	D 3,627 (1,627, 698) Connally
Brant	R 472 (261, 283) Mayer	Steger	R 1,924 (708, 576)
O'Daniel	370 (110, 234)		Cox
Shivers	1		Carswell
Yarborough	1		C 3 (7, 046)

G-Constitution, CM-Communist, D-Democratic, F-Fusion, G-Greenback, I-Independent, JD-Jacksonian Democratic, K-Know-Nothing, L-Liberty, P-Prohibition, PP-Peoples', PR-Progressive, R-Republican, S-Socialist and Socialist Labor, SD-Social Democratic, W-Whig

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